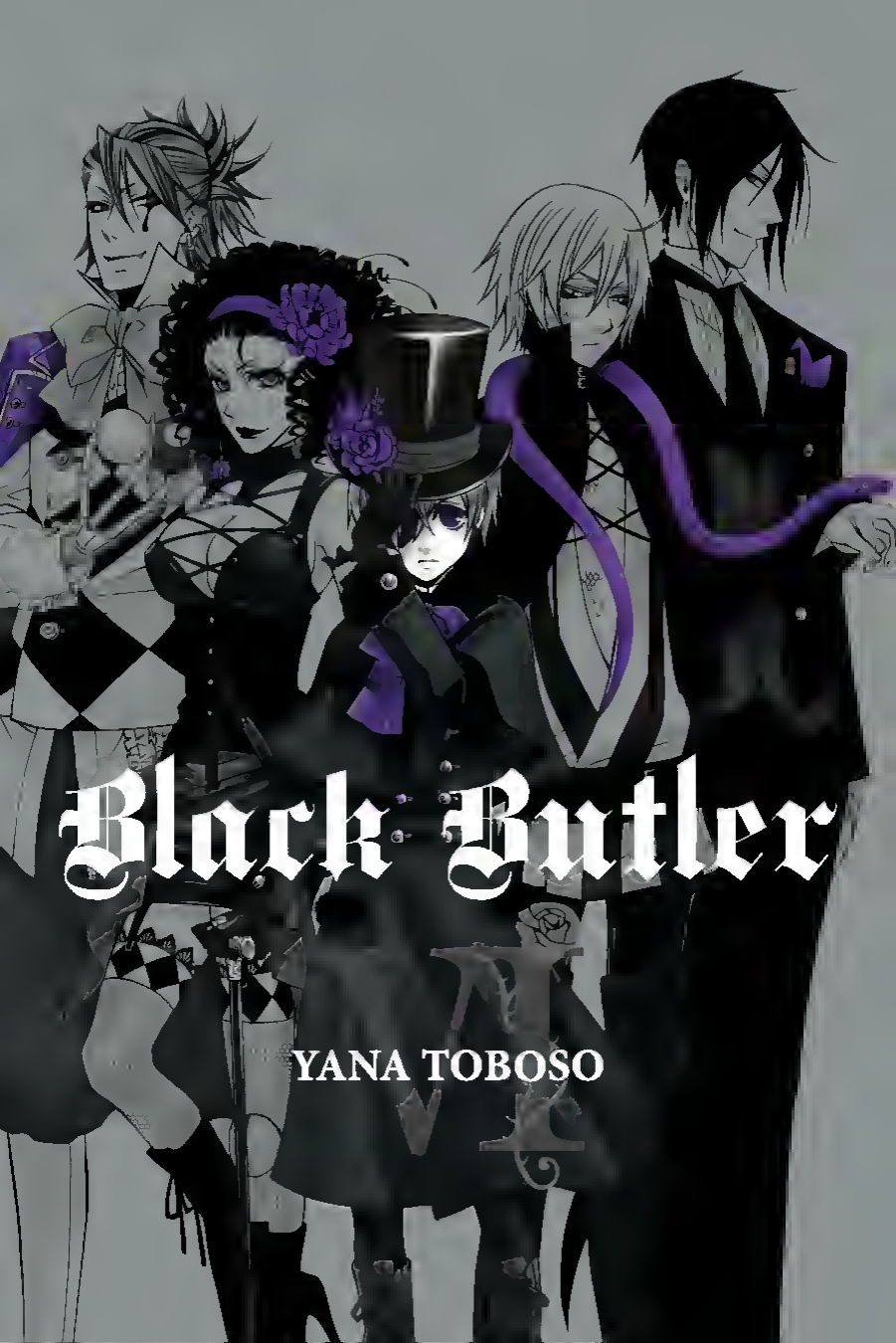
Black Butler
YANA TOBOSO
VI


Black Butler
YANA TOBOSO

Contents

Chapter 24

In the morning 3

The Butler, Onstage

Chapter 25

In the afternoon .. 39

The Butler, Treated

Chapter 26

At night 81

The Butler, A Colleague

Chapter 27

At midnight 125

The Butler, Performs

Chapter 24

In the morning : The Butler, Onstage

...LORD RANDALL'S ABSENCE IS QUITE A BOON FOR US.
FILE ROOM
...I MUST SAY...
HOW IN THE WORLD DID YOU MANAGE TO GET INTO THE THIRD-FLOOR FILE ROOM !?
1886
FIRST OF ALL —!
IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU DIDN'T LEAVE HIM TO FIND OUT.
PLEASE, I'M BEGGING YOU!
IF THE COMMIS-SIONER FINDS OUT ABOUT THIS...

WELL, SEBASTIAN?
OF THE CHILDREN WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO INVESTIGATE, NOT A ONE HAS BEEN FOUND DEAD.
WE'RE LEAVING AS SOON AS YOU'VE COPIED IT ALL DOWN.
PERHAPS WE OUGHT TO BORROW THE PHOTO-GRAPHS JUST IN CASE?
THAT WOULD BE MOST TROUBLE-SOME!!
IF THEIR LOSS IS DISCOVERED, FEEL FREE TO SAY I MADE OFF WITH THEM.
I'LL GET EVEN MORE OF A SCOLDING!
YOU ...
...ERM, MASTER UNDER-LINE?
IT'S ABBER-LINE.
YOUR COOPER-ATION IS MUCH APPRECI-ATED.
GU (PRESS)
...?
YOU'VE BEEN A GREAT HELP TODAY.

I REQUIRE NOTHING OF THE SORT!!
YOUR FLEXIBILITY SHOWS PROMISE.
ANY METHODS NECESSARY... HM?
GIRI (CLENCH)
I SIMPLY THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BEST TO EMPLOY ANY METHODS NECESSARY TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS MATTER QUICKLY.
THIS IS JUST —!!
HURRY UP ON THAT PROMOTION OF YOURS...
... MASTER ABBERLINE.

WE MAY STILL CONSIDER ALL THE CHILDREN MISSING.
TON (TOK)
TON
...IN THE UNDER-WORLD... THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT THEY MAY ALREADY BE...
THAT MAY BE THE CASE IN POLITE SOCIETY, BUT...
ガラガラ
GARA (GARA)
GARA (RATTLE)
GARA
GARA

—TO MY DARLING BOY—
(RUSTLE)
DID YOU HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS? I MADE CHRISTMAS PUDDING WITH PHILLIP.
IT TURNED OUT SPLENDIDLY, AND JOHN AND GREY HEAPED THEIR PRAISES UPON IT TOO. I HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US NEXT TIME, MY DEAR BOY.
THEY ARE A TRAVELLING TROUPE THAT VISITS VARIOUS LOCALES.
HOWEVER, THE TROUPE'S TRAVELS APPEAR TO COINCIDE WITH ANY NUMBER OF CHILDREN GOING MISSING FROM THE TOWNS WHERE THEY CALL.
NOW TO THE MATTER OF THE TICKETS I HAVE ENCLOSED.
HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE TRAVELLING CIRCUS MAKING ITS WAY TO LONDON IN THE COMING DAYS?
IT SEEMS THE CHILDREN SUDDENLY DISAPPEAR IN THE DEAD OF THE NIGHT...
ALMOST AS IF...
THE POLICE ARE DOING EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO LOCATE THEM, BUT THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE CHILDREN ARE AS YET UNKNOWN.

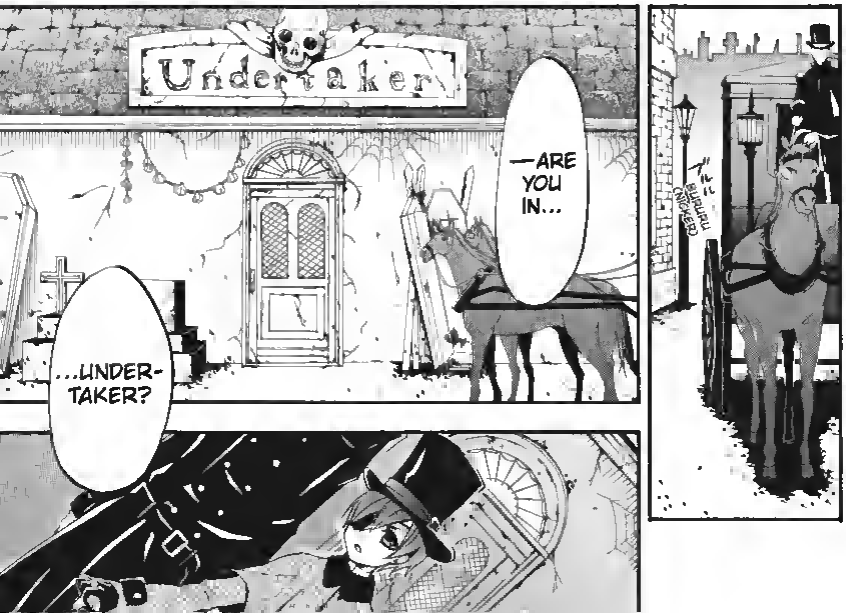
...THEY HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY BY THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN...

THE SORROW OF LOSING A LOVED ONE IS INSUFFERABLE.
I PRAY FOR THE SWIFT AND SAFE RETURN OF THESE CHILDREN TO THEIR FAMILIES.
—VICTORIA
KASA: (RUSTLE)

TO BE HONEST, I WOULD PREFER TO AVOID IT, BUT...
.....

YOUNG MASTER.
IF YOU ARE ATTRIBUTING THIS CASE TO THE UNDERWORLD, WILL WE BE CALLING ON *HIM* AGAIN?

I WANT TO GET BACK TO THE MANOR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
LET'S GO.
VERY WELL...
WHY, YOU LITTLE BOY BLUE, YOOOU!!
WHY, IF IT ISN'T CIEL! YOU MISS ME ALREADY!?
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
HA!
AN HOUR AGO AT THE TOWN HOUSE

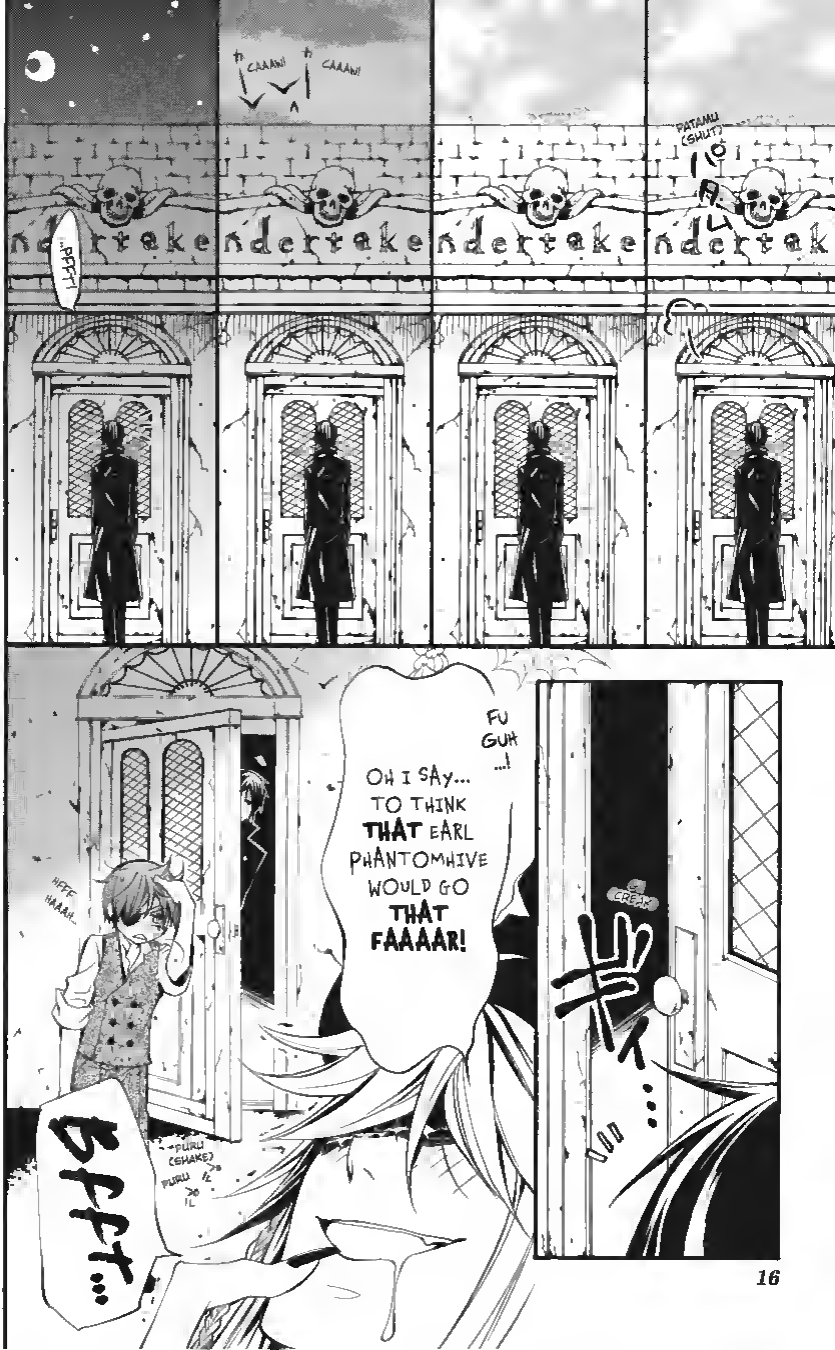

Undertaker
—ARE YOU IN...
...UNDERTAKER?
SNICKER

HEE! HEE
I BID YEEEE WEEL-COME, LORD EARL ..
GORO (ROLL)
GORO
GORO
GORO
ゴロゴロゴロゴロ
パカ
KAAAN (STRIKE)!
コ!
DOES YOUR LORDSHIP FINALLY FEEL LIKE STEPPING INTO THE COFFIN THAT I'VE MADE SPECIALLY FOR YOOOOU, HMM?
WHY, YOU...
HEE! HEE ...!
IN ANY CASE, HAVE A SEAT.
I'VE JUST BAKED SOME COOKIES!

THEY ARE TREATED AS BEING MISSING IN POLITE SOCIETY, AND NO BODIES OR THE LIKE HAVE BEEN FOUND YET.
—THE CORPSES OF CHILDREN, HMMM...
パキ (SNAP)
WELL, IN THE UNDERWORLD, YOU SEE DEAD CHILDREN EVERY DAY AFTER ALL...
ぐい (SWIP)
I'VE BROUGHT THE FILES ALONG.
AMONG THEM, ARE THERE ANY YOU'VE CLEANED UP?
YOU'RE WEEEELL AWARE OF THAT, AREN'T YOU, EARL?
.....

WHOOO CAAAN SAAAY? MAAAY-HAPS THERE AAARE?
MAYBE SEEING SOMETHING AMUUUUSING WILL BRING IT AAAAAALL BAAAAACK?
BESTOOOW UPON MEEEE THE CHOICEST LAUGHTER!
THEEEN I SHALL TELL YOU AAANY-THING!
GIVE IT TO ME...
UGH..
YOU UNDER-STAND WHAT I'M GETTING AT, MILORD?
SEBAS-TIAN.
HEE! HEE!
OOH HEE HEE!
VERY WELL.
HMMM?
RELYING ON HIM AGAIN, ARE YOOOU?
GYU (TUG)
I DON'T CARE WHO IT IS SO LONG AS HE IS AMUSING.
WELL..
!!
FU HEEEEE!
IS MILORD A CHILD WHO CANNOT DO A THING UNLESS MASTER BUTLER IS AROUND, HMMM?
GUH FU FU!

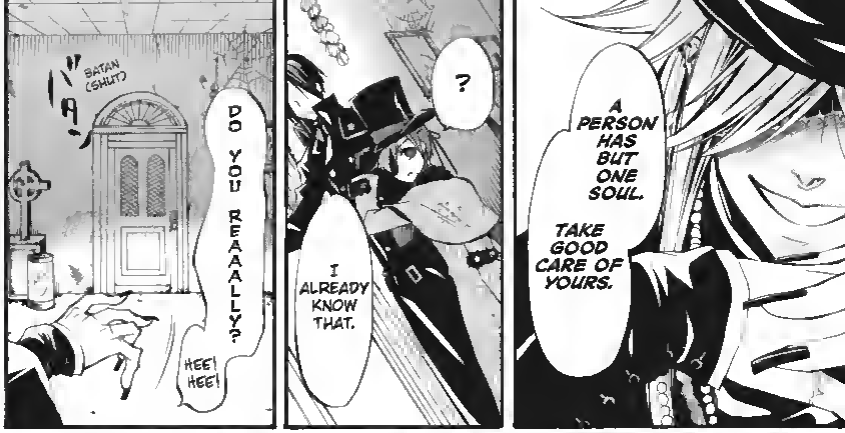
YOU'RE HOPELESS WITHOUT ME, EH!?
REALLY, WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH YOOOU!
FINE, YOU CAN CALL ME BIG BROTHER, IF YOU'D LIKE!
HAHAHAHAHA
ARE YOU SURE?
YOU GET OUT.
I'LL DO IT.
CIEEEE!
LITTLE MISTER LONELY PANTS, YOU!
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH YOU!
YOU'RE HELPLESS WITHOUT ME HUH?
YOU CAN CALL ME BIG BROTHER!
イライライライ


CAAAN!
CAAAN!
PATAMU (SHUT)
ndertake
ndertake
ndertake
ndertak
...FFFT!
FU GUH ...!
OH I SAY... TO THINK THAT EARL PHANTOMHIVE WOULD GO THAT FAAAAR!
HFFF HAAAH...
CREAK
BFFT...
FURU (SHAKE)
FURU
IL

STILL, FOR YOU TO RESORT TO PERFORMING TRICKS IF IT IS IN THE NAME OF THE QUEEN...
...YOU REALLY ARE A DOG.
ENOUGH.
SHUT YOUR MOUTH.
LOOK AT YOUR HAIR.
WHAT ON EARTH DID YOU DO?
DON'T ASK.
HEE HEE
GUFU FU
THERE AREN'T ANY.
NOW I'VE PAID YOUR FEE.
SO LET'S HEAR ABOUT THE CHILDREN.

HUH?
NONE OF THESE CHILDREN WERE AMONG MY CUSTOMERS...
...NOR HAVE I HEARD RUMOURS ABOUT THEM IN THE UNDERWORLD.
SO YOU DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS INCIDENT AT ALL?
NOT QUITE.
I KNOW THAT I "DO NOT KNOW" ABOUT IT.
DID YOU DECEIVE ME?
NOT AT ALL.
THIS IS TERRIBLY USEFUL INFORMATION, IS IT NOT?

IN WHICH CASE...
INDEED.
IF YOU DO NOT KNOW, THE FACT REMAINS THAT THE CHILDREN HAVE NOT BEEN KILLED IN THE UNDER-WORLD.
...WE HAVE NO OTHER OPTION LEFT TO US BUT TO INVESTIGATE SAID CIRCUS TROUPE DIRECTLY.
IF THEIR BODIES HAVE NOT BEEN FOUND IN EITHER THE OUTSIDE WORLD OR THE UNDERWORLD, THE LIKELIHOOD OF THE CHILDREN STILL BEING ALIVE IS QUITE HIGH.
MILORD.
UNDERTAKER, CONTACT ME IF YOU COME ACROSS ANY INFORMATION.
WELL, THAT DECIDES IT. COME, SEBAS-TIAN.


SATAN (SHUT)
DO YOU REAAALLY?
HEE! HEE!
?
I ALREADY KNOW THAT.
A PERSON HAS BUT ONE SOUL.
TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOURS.

ZA (STEP)
ZAWA
ZAWA (MURMUR)

NOAH'S ARK CIRCUS
THIS MUST BE IT.

...IT SEEMS LIKE AN ORDINARY CIRCUS...
CHIRA (GLANCE)
BY SIGHT...
PA (PLASH)
BOYS!
AND!
GIIIRLS!
LADIES!
AND!
GENTLE-MENNNN!
FU (FWOO)

ON THIS FINE DAY, WE WELCOME YE TO THE NOAH'S ARK CIRCUS.
I AM JOKER. IF YE'LL JUST TAKE A GANDER O'ER HE—
D'OW!
PO (PLOP)
PO
PO
HA
HA
HA
HA
AHEM!!
THIS CIRCUS, 'TIS PACKED FULL OF ACTS TO ENTERTAIN AND ASTOUND YE!

NOW, NOW...
...WITH A SPECTACULAR BLAST FROM OUR FIRE-EATER...
...LET THE SHOW OF THE CENTURY BEGIIIIN!
NEXT WE HAVE THE FLYING TRAPEZE ACT, WITH A DUO IN PERFECT SYNC.
WOOOW!

AND NEVER MISSING A TARGET...
...THE KNIFE THROWER WITH A PERFECT RECORD!
IT DOES NOT SEEM AS THOUGH THE MISSING CHILDREN ARE BEING MADE TO PERFORM EITHER.
JUST SO.
THERE'S NOTHING PARTICULARLY SPECIAL ABOUT THE PROGRAMME ...

FOR THE NEXT ACT—

THE PRINCESS OF OUR CIRCUS UNDERTAKES HER DEATH-DEFYING TIGHTROPE WALK!
WOOOOOH!
IF THE GOAL WASN'T TO PUT THE CHILDREN ON DISPLAY...
...THEN PERHAPS THE TRAVELLING ROUTE OF THE CIRCUS COINCIDING WITH THE MISSING CHILDREN IS SIMPLY A COINCIDENCE?
SHHHH (HISSS)
NOW WE HAVE AN EXTREMELY RARE CREATURE, HALF-MAN, HALF-SNAKE.
A MAGNIFICENT DANCE BY THE SNAKEMAN!

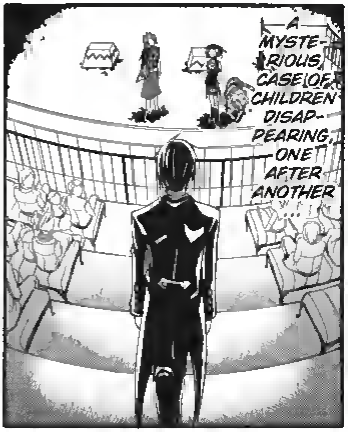
AND LAST, BUT CERTAINLY NOT LEAST!
THE STAR OF OUR CIRCUS MAKES HER ENTRANCE! FEAST YOUR EYES ON OUR ANIMAL TAMER!
PAAN (WHAP)
EEEK!
I WOULD DEARLY LOVE TO HAVE YE, THE AUDIENCE, PARTICIPATE IN THIS ACT...
SU (RISE)
IT LOOKS AS IF COMING TO THE CIRCUS WAS RATHER A WASTE OF TIME.
ZAWA
ZAWA (MURMUR)
THERE ARE NO CHILDREN INVOLVED IN THE LAST ACT EITHER.
?
WHAT IS IT? DID YOU FIND SOME—

OH!
GOOD SIR IN THE TAIL-COAT, I SEE YE ARE MOST EAGER!
HIE YE TO THE STAGE THEN!
RIGHT THIS WAY, MY GOOD MAN!
WHA—!?

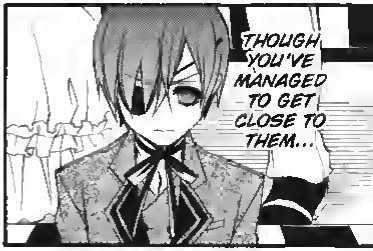
YES, SIR.
GO ON, THEN.
HISO (WHISPER)
PACHI
PACHI
THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET CLOSE TO THAT LOT.

!!
PACHI
PACHI
PACHI (CLAP)
...OH, I SEE!

AND THIS CIRCUS IS THE ONLY PLACE WHERE WE CAN HOPE TO FIND CLUES.


A MYSTERIOUS CASE OF CHILDREN DISAPPEARING, ONE AFTER ANOTHER...

HM, SEBASTIAN?
HOW EXACTLY ARE YOU GOING TO INVESTIGATE?


THOUGH YOU'VE MANAGED TO GET CLOSE TO THEM...

...WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE WATCHING...

MAY WE HAVE YE LIE DOWN OVER HERE, SIR?
HUH?
SU (SWF)
SU
Oh my...
What round eyes you have...
うっとり
SPELLBOUND...
ZAWA (MURMUR)
ザワ
!!

VIVID STRIPES THE LIKES OF WHICH I HAVE NEVER SEEN...AND SUCH SOFT EARS...

DAMN!
TIGERS ARE PART OF THE CAT FAMILY !!!

YOU TAKE MY BREATH AWAY.

SU (SWF)
YOUR PAW PADS ARE PLUMP AND ALSO MOST ENCHANTING.

POKAAAAN (STUNNED)
ポカ
OH? YOUR CLAWS HAVE GOTTEN A TOUCH LONG.

YOU MUST NOT LET YOUR GROOMING GO AMISS NOW...
.....

AH.
GABU (CHOMP)
KYAAAAAAAH!
LET GO OF HIM!!
BA (WHAP)
BETTY!!
HA (GASP)

SHE IS NOT TO BLAME.
!?
BASH (SNATCH)

TSU (STROKE)
FURTHER-MORE...
IN THE FACE OF SUCH LOVELINESS, I SIMPLY COULD NOT STOP MYSELF FROM BEING THOUGHT-LESSLY RUDE...

...ONE CANNOT TRAIN ANIMALS...
...BY JUST BLINDLY SWINGING ONE'S WHIP.
!
GABU (CHOMP)
BETTY!!
SPIT HIM OUT!!! NOW!!!
MY, MY, WHAT A TOMBOY YOU ARE.

WHO TOLD YOU TO GO THAT FAR?
FIRST OF ALL, WHAT WERE YOU HOPING TO GAIN BY STANDING OUT SO MU—
むずっ
MUZU (TICKLE)
AH—
CHOO!!
.....
HOKU (HAPPY) ホク ホクホク
FOR-GIVE ME.
I HAVE BEEN ALIVE FOR A LONG TIME, BUT CATS ARE SO WHIMSICAL, I CAN NEVER QUITE READ THEM ..
AH!
THERE! THERE HE IS! YE THERE, SIR...
STAY AWAY FROM ME!
YES, SIR.
YOU KNOW I'M ALLER-GIC TO CATS!

WE REALLY ARE SO SORRY ABOUT WHAT 'APPENED BACK THERE.
NOT AT ALL. PLEASE FORGIVE MY UN-TOWARD BEHAV-IOUR.
...YE IN THE TAIL-COAT!!
WHERE YE GOT BIT, ARE YE SURE IT'S ALL RIGHT?
SHOCKED ME CLEAN OUT OF MY SKIN, YE DID! SUDDENLY GETTING ALL CLOSE TO THE TIGER LIKE THAT.
ANYWAY, IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO GET OUR TROUPE DOCTOR TO TAKE A LOOK AT YE.

COME 'ROUND BACK, IF YE WOULD.
NIYA
COMING
MUCH OBLIGED.

Black Butler

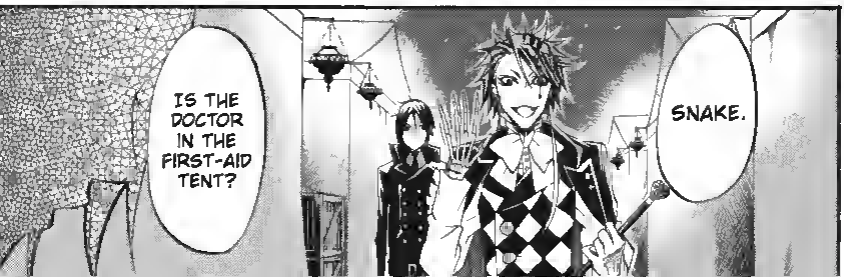
Chapter 25

In the afternoon : The Butler, Treated

SO COME 'ROUND BACK, IF YE WOULD.
IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA TO GET OUR TROUPE DOCTOR TO TAKE A LOOK AT YE.
KOKU (NOD)
コク。
チラッ
CHIRA (PEEK)
MUCH OBLIGED.
NIKO (SMILE)
ニコッ

RIGHT THIS WAY.
'ERE WE GO.

OH.
WATCH YOUR STEP.
BEG YOUR PARDON, THE PLACE IS RATHER A MESS.


IS THE DOCTOR IN THE FIRST-AID TENT?
SNAKE.

KUI (POINT)
KUI
CHI (SQUEAK)
CHI
SHURU (SLITHER)
CHUUU (SQUEAK)
.....
OH DEAR
BAAAD TIMING!
SEEMS HE'S OUT ON BUSI-NESS.
HEE!
YOU'RE RIGHT!
WHAT A LOB OF A LAD!
HEE!
HEE!
OH?
ISN'T THAT THE LAD WHO WAS BITTEN BY THE TIGER?

OH! THERE HE IS!
DOC!
NNOH?
HEYA JOKER! YOUR ARM GIVING YOU TROUBLE AGAIN?
NO, I'M NOT 'ERE FOR ME TODAY...
AH.
IF I THINK BACK, YER THE FELLER THAT GOT 'IS 'EAD BIT BY BETTY!
YOU ALL RIGHT?
BETTY BIT YOU!?
THAT'S AWFUL! COME, TO THE MEDICAL TENT WITH YOU!!

.....
WERE YOU REALLY BITTEN BY THE TIGER?
WELL IF NOTHING'S WRONG WITH YOU, THAT'S JUST AS WELL.
PLAY-BITE?
PLAY
It was but a play-bite.
THERE'S NARY A SCRATCH ON YOU...
YOU ARE NOT THE TROUPE LEADER?
IF A MEMBER OF OUR AUDIENCE HAD BEEN HURT, OUR LEADER WOULD'VE HAD OUR HEADS!
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE FINE.

DOCTOR. I WAS HOPING YOU COULD TAKE A LOOK AT MY LEG ...?
I'M SOMETHING OF A RING-MASTER-FOR-HIRE... THE LEADER IS SOMEONE ELSE ENTIRELY...AND QUITE SCARY TO BOOT.
DON'TCHA COME CRYIN' TO ME WHEN YE GET CHEWED OUT FOR SAYIN' THAT, OL'-TIMER!
YOU—!
SIIIS!
TSUKA TSUKA TSUKA ツカツカツカツカ TSUKA (STOMP)
HUH?
I'M 'AVING PROBLEMS WITH MY LEG TOO, JUS' LIKE SIS. GOSSSSH, THIS'S GOTTA BE MORE PROOF THAT WE'RE TIED BY THE RED STRING OF F—

YOU'RE THE ECCENTRIC GENTLEMAN FROM BEFORE!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
THANKS TO YOU, THE ACT WAS COMPLETELY RU!—
BEAST!
HOW COULD YOU TALK THAT WAY TO A MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE!!?
YOU HAVE ONLY YOUR CARELESS-NESS IN BEING UNABLE TO CONTROL BETTY TO BLAME!
B—
BUT HE AP-PROACHED BETTY ON HIS OWN—
NO BUTS! YOU'RE A PROFES-SIONAL, RIGHT!?
.....

...
HAAH.
YEAH, YEAH! PLEASE EXAMINE MY DEAR SIS'S LEG FIRST!
NOW, NOW, DOCTOR. YOU MUSTN'T RAISE YOUR VOICE IN FRONT OF A SPECTATOR.
SFX: NYOKI (POP)
TCH!
...
YEAH.
BEAST, RETRAIN BETTY AGAIN AFTER THIS.
GOOD. NOW LET'S SEE THE PROSTHESIS.
YE MIGHT SAY THERE'S A LITTLE REASON BEHIND THIS CIRCUS.
PROS-THESIS?

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, WE'RE A COLLECTION OF FOLKS WITH PROBLEMS.
I WAS MISSING AN ARM MYSELF, BUT THANKS TO THE DOCTOR, LOOK AT ME NOW.
PRETTY FINE, EH?
KASHA (KASHAK)
KASHA
IT'S ALWAYS GOING BAD BECAUSE YOU INSIST ON HAVING A PROSTHETIC ARM IN THAT SHAPE!
OOPS
I WISH YOU'D GIVE SOME CONSID-ERATION TO THE PERSON WHO HAS TO MAINTAIN IT.
DO YOU MAKE THE ARTIFICIAL LIMBS FOR ALL OF THE TROUPE MEMBERS?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT—

FROM CARVING THE PARTS TO THE INSTAL-LATION, I DO IT ALL.
IT'S A LOTTT OF WORK, I TELL YOU!
CE-RAMIC ?
NOPE, CERAMIC.
CARVING? ARE THEY MADE OF WOOD, THEN?
THIS IS INDEED DELICATE WORK-MANSHIP.
TO ENSURE SMOOTHNESS IN MOVEMENT, I ALSO USE BALL-SHAPED PARTS IN THE JOINTS.
RIGHT?
OH?
I SEE. IT ALSO FEELS NICE TO THE TOUCH.
I SAY CERAMIC, BUT I USE SPECIAL MATERIALS TO MAKE IT LIGHT AND DURABLE.

WHAT IS THIS HALL-MARK ...?

WHAT ARE YOU PLAYING AT, YOU LETCH!?
SU (KICK)
HYO! (DODGE)
HUH
AAH, EXCUSE ME.
YOU DID NOT STRIKE ME AS ONE SO CHASTE AS TO BE BASHFUL AT SOMETHING OF THIS SORT, SO...
MUKKAAA (GRRR)
SFX BURU (SHAKE) BURU
HEY!!
BEAST, STOP THAT!! HE'S A SPECTA-TOR!
YOU TWO STOP HER QUI—
AH NAH NAH NAH!
BASHI (WHAP)
HYO! (DODGE)
WHY, YOU!

YOU BARMY BAS-TARD, HOW DARE YE LAY A HAND ON ME SIS'S PALE, SILKEN SKIN!
HOW DARE YE.
HOW DARE YE!
BA (FWICK)
GUWA (CRUSH)
AND WHEN I HAVEN'T EVEN LAID A HAND ON IT YET!!
THOUGH I DID NOT TOUCH HER SKIN DIRECTLY...
BA (SHING)

DAGGER, STOP IT. OR ELSE THE TENT WILL—
BA (GRAB)
FORGET THE TENT.
GISHI (CREAK)
...I DO SEEM TO HAVE TOUCHED OFF YOUR ANGER.
SIS'S CHASTITY IS MORE IMPOR-TANT!!

NOO WAY !?
TCH!
DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK!
BI (FLICK)
PAAN (SMACK)

BASHI (WHAP)
HERE!
POMU (POP)
WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP THEM SOONER-RRRR!?
WAAAH!
BUT, JOKER!
WHAAA!?
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIIIGHT. THAT WILL DO FOR TODAY!

HMPH!
I'M GIVING YOU THESE FLOWERS, SO LET'S SEE A SMILE.
I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY HE WOULD WANT TO HAVE A TOUCH.
YE HAVE SUCH LOVELY LEGS, AFTER ALL.
SUTO (THUD)
COME, COME.
BUT HE—
PIKU (TWITCH)
SO MUCH SO I'VE HALF A MIND TO SCOUT YE FOR OUR TROUPE HERE.
HERE YOU ARE, YOUR KNIVES.
BUT I SAAAY!
LEAVING THAT ALL ASIDE, YE HAVE SOME TERRIFIC REFLEXES, SIR.
ZUI (CLOSE)
ARE YOU SURE?
EH?

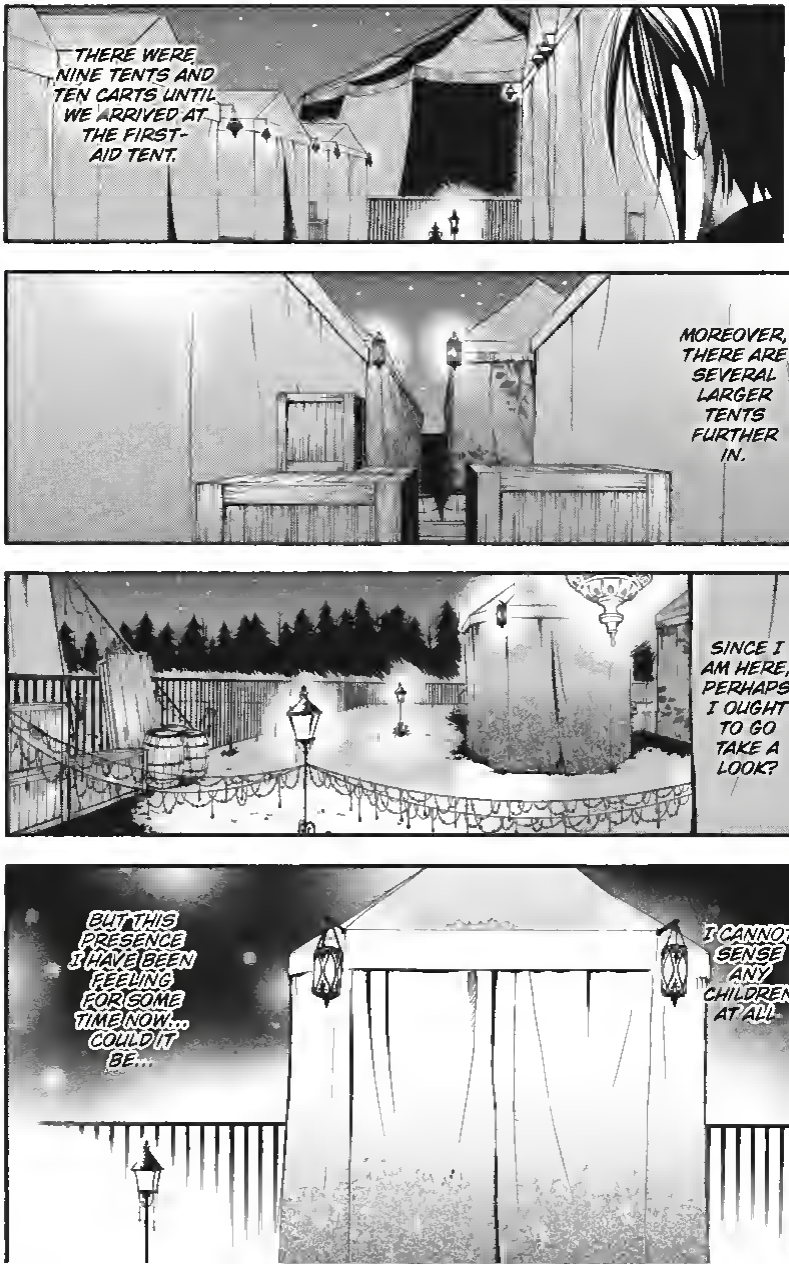
TO TELL THE TRUTH, MY CURRENT MASTER IS SO WILLFUL THAT I HAVE HAD QUITE ENOUGH OF HIM.
はーぁ。
HAAAA (SIGH)

MASTER, YE SAY
SIR, ARE YE A SERVANT AT SOME GRAND HOUSE?
YOU'RE DRESSED WELL, SO I FIGURED YE FOR A GENT.
ヘクシッ
Kchoo!
?

ME, A GENTLE-MAN? HOW ABSURD.
I AM MERELY A BUTLER.
SO WERE YOU SERIOUS ABOUT SCOUTING ME FOR YOUR TROUPE?
IF SO, I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN AT ONCE.

BAMU (PAT)
AH! HA! HA!
YOU ARE ONE AMUSING CHAP, GOOD SIR!
I LIKE YE!!
BAMU
SIR, ARE YE REALLY SERIOUS?
?
I AM ALWAYS SERIOUS, YOU SEE?
PFFT!
IF YE WANNA JOIN UP, YE CAN COME BY ANYTIME.
HEY! JOKER !?
THERE IS ONE OTHER I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE TO YOU.
HOW COULD YOU DECIDE JUST LIKE THAT !!?
NOW, NOW. HE'S QUITE A TALENT.
IF YOU PLEASE.

...BUT I WOULD LIKE TO RUN HIM THROUGH OUR TRYOUT.
CERTAINLY, IF THERE'S ANOTHER LIKE YE...
AHHCHOO!
??
UNDERSTOOD. WELL THEN, THE TWO OF US SHALL IMPOSE UPON YOU TOMORROW.
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TODAY.
NYA (GRIN)
YOU DO NOT NEED TO SHOW ME THE WAY OUT.
NOW THEN...

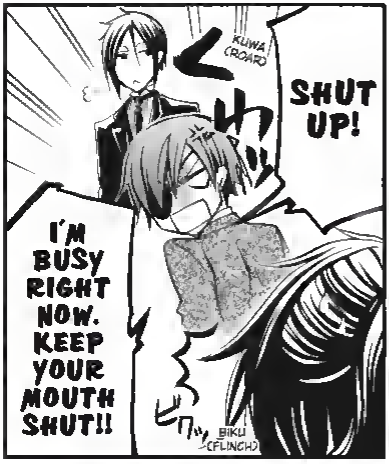

THERE WERE NINE TENTS AND TEN CARTS UNTIL WE ARRIVED AT THE FIRST-AID TENT.
MOREOVER, THERE ARE SEVERAL LARGER TENTS FURTHER IN.
SINCE I AM HERE, PERHAPS I OUGHT TO GO TAKE A LOOK?
BUT THIS PRESENCE I HAVE BEEN FEELING FOR SOME TIME NOW... COULD IT BE...
I CANNOT SENSE ANY CHILDREN AT ALL.

HISSSSS!
ENTRY BEYOND THIS POINT IS FORBID-DEN.
—SAYS WILDE...
HISSS!
.....
THE EXIT IS OVER THERE.
—SAYS GOETHE.

GOOD-BYE.
.....
THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND-NESS
NIKO (SMILE)
—SAYS GOETHE...
C-I-E-L!!
SO LIKE I SAID—
WHY, YOU ASK?
WHY DID THINGS TURN OUT THAT WAY?
HUUH?

TEACH ME CHESS TODAY.
WHEN DID I ORDER YOU TO DO SUCH A THING?
IS THERE ANY HARM IN IT?
SUTA
SUTA
SUTA
SUTA (STRIDE)
スタスタスタスタ

YOU WERE LAAATE! ARE YOU DONE FOR THE DAY!?
WELCOME HOME.


SHUT UP!
KUWA (ROAR)
I'M BUSY RIGHT NOW. KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT!!
BIKU (FLINCH)

AS FAR AS THIS ...
HEY CIEL! WHAT A SOUR FACE YOU'VE GOT THERE!
GACHA (CLICK)
I CAME OUT TO GREET YOU. SO YOU COULD AT LEAST SMILE!
IRA (TSK)

...LUCK WILL RUN AWAY IF YOU'RE NOT SMILING, YOU KNOW...

LIKE I WAS SAYING ...
...HOW DID IT TURN INTO ME HAVING TO JOIN THE CIRCUS AS WELL!?
NO ONE IS HAVING YOU DO ANY-THING.
YOU WILL TRY OUT FOR THE TROUPE AND BE ASKED TO JOIN.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT NEEDS TO INFILTRATE THE PLACE.
ROSU (PANTING)
LIVING IN A TENT IS NO LAUGHING MATTER!
IS THAT WHAT YOU WISH?
TO HAVE ME ACT OF MY OWN FREE WILL, NOT BY YOUR COMMAND?
TCH!
.....
POINT TAKEN.

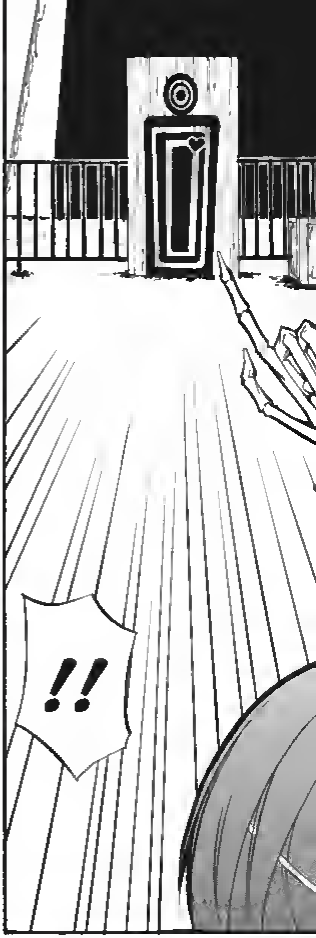
BUT THE ABILITY TO DO TRICKS IS ESSENTIAL TO BEING A CIRCUS PERFORMER, RIGHT?
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
INDEED
HEH
WELL. PLEASE DO YOUR BEST WITH THE TRYOUT TOMORROW.
AS YOUR BUTLER, I SHALL BE CHEERING YOU ON FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

.....
THERE'S NOTHING FOR IT. I'LL HAVE TO JOIN THE CIRCUS TOO.
HAA (SIGH)
AS YOU WISH.

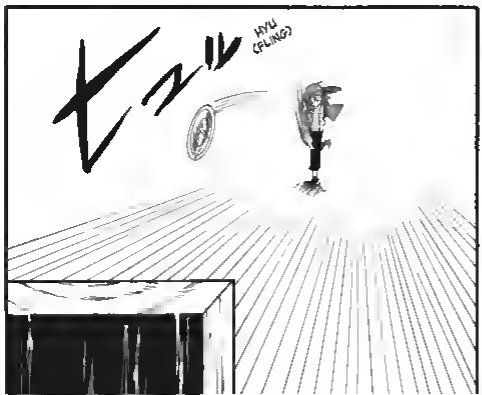
GOOD-NESS ME, YE SURE BROUGHT ALONG AN INCREDIBLY ADORABLE CHILD, EH?
ARE YOU A BOY?

TROUPE MEMBERS REHEARSING
ZAWA
AH-HA-HA HE'S CUUUTE!
IS HE NIGH?
I WAS A PAGEBOY AT THE MANOR.
UMM...
ZAWA (MURMUR)
YES.
YE REALLY A BOY?
WELL!
YES-
WE'LL GIVE YE A STAGE NAME IF YE MAKE IT INTO OUR TROUPE.
WHAT A GRAND-SOUNDING NAME YE 'AVE.
I'M FINNIAN.
LET'S BE FRIENDS, OKAY?
KYAH!
SO LITTLE FELLOW, WHAT ARE YE GOOD AT?
YES, NICE TO MEET YOU
MISTER ARE YE GONNA JOIN OUR TROUUUPE?
BUT BEING CUTE ISN'T ENOUGH TO WORK IN A CIRCUS.
YE GOTTA KNOW HOW TO DO TRICKS.
KYAH!
...DARTS?
HERE YE GO.
SFX: ZUSHI (SHHNIO)
HIT THAT TARGET OVER THERE FROM OVER HERE.
KNIFE THROWING, IT IS!
DAGGER, LEND HIM YOUR KNIVES.

ZAWA
ざわ
ZAWA (MURMUR)
ざわ…
……


!!

I'M NOT BEING MEAN. YE COULDN'T CALL IT AN ACT IF 'TWERE ANY CLOSER.
AWW, MAN. WHAT A BULLY Y'ARE, OL'-TIMER!
WITH THEM SCRAWNY ARMS, 'E'LL NEVER 'IT THE TARGET.


ヒュル
HYU (FLING)

……

AWWW, I KNEW IT...
HYUUUUN (WHIIIZ)
ヒュ〜ン
!?
DOSU (THUNK)
ドッ
KAKU (BEND)
カク
NIYARI (SMIRK)
ニヤリ
NO WAY!?

SU (SWF)
GU (SQUEEZE)
HYU (FLING)
HYUUUN (WHIIIZ)
BI (SNAP)
KA (TOK)
DOSU (THNK)
KAKU (VEER)

WILL THAT DO?
おぉぉ〜〜っ
OOHHHHH..
ヒュ
HYU
ドッ
DOSU
カクッ
KAKU
ビ
BI
ドスッ
DOSU
THEN NEXT UP IS THIS!
YE SEEM TO HAVE GOOD CONTROL.
TONT

TIGHT-ROPE WALK-ING!!
ヒュオオ…
HYUOO (WHOOSH)
DOLLLL! TIE THE LIFE-LINE NICE 'N' TIGHT NOOOW!
HE'S YET A NOVICE, SO HE'LL HURT HIM-SELF IF HE FALLS.
W—
WON'T YOU TEST ME WITH SOME-THING ELSE?
OHHH?
RETIRING ALREADY, HMMM, LITTLE FELLOW !?

N-NO. BUT SOME-THING OTHER THAN THIS—
THEN GET A MOVE ON, WOULD YE!?
GU (GRIT)
SO (STEP)
GURA (TIP)
GISHI (CREAK)
!!

OHHH...
THAT WAS CLOSE. BUT HE RECOVERED.
...
!!
BISHI (WHAP)
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN ...!!
DAMN!
ARRRGH!
PISHI (WHAP)
PISHI
PISHI
PISHI
PISHI
PISHI
PISHI
OWWW!
OUCH!

AMAZING! I NEVER THOUGHT YE WOULD ACTUALLY WALK THE TIGHTROPE!
THANK YOU...
PACHI (CLAP)
PFFT
HEHE
HEHE (STING)
THEN THIS CUTIE-PIE PASSES, RIGHT, OL' CHAP!?
PAPU PAPU (PAT)
NOT YET.
I'LL GET YOU LATER...
THE LITTLE FELLOW'S MISSING SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
!?
A FIRST-CLASS...
...SMILE!!
WHA—!?
OKAY, LET'S SEE A GREAT BIG SMIIIILE!!
PFFT
KUN KUN KUN
GU (CLENCH)
GU
GU

ニコ
ニコ
NIKO (SMILE)
FRIENDS!
LEND ME YOUR EARS! WE'VE A COUPLE OF NEW-COMERS JOINING US TODAY!

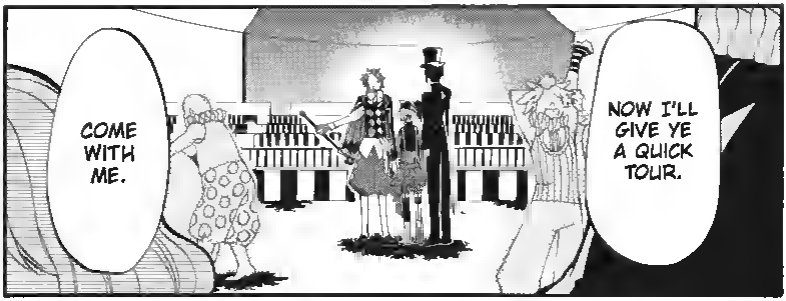
ZAHA
ZAHA
THIS IS THE ROOKIE "BLACK"...
I AM BLACK. NICE TO MEET YOU.
...AND THIS LITTLE ONE...

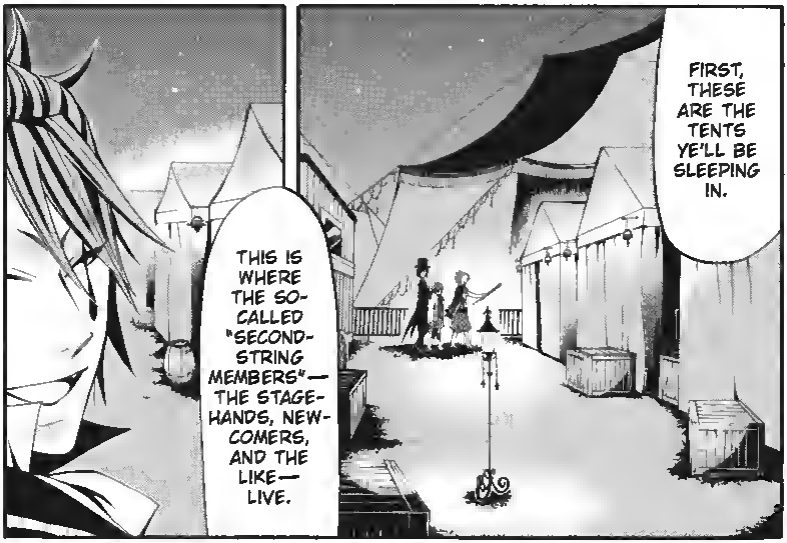
...IS "SMILE" !!!
HEH
S...
I...
...I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU...
C'MON, SMILE. SMILE!
OKAAAAY!
TREAT THEM WELL NOW, ALL RIGHT?
WITH A SMILE.
COME, SMILE. SAY HELLO TO YOUR SENIORS.
EH?

Black Butler

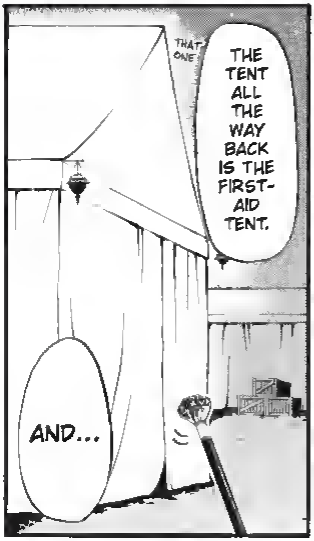
FRIENDS, LEND ME YOUR EARS! WE'VE A COUPLE OF NEW-COMERS JOINING US TODAY!
THIS IS THE NEWCOMER "BLACK"...
...AND THIS IS "SMILE" !!!
S—!
I...
HEH
I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU...

Chapter 26
At night : The Butler, A Colleague

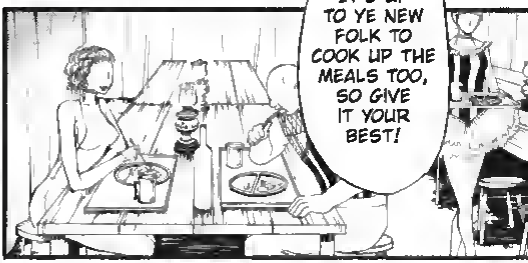

COME WITH ME.
NOW I'LL GIVE YE A QUICK TOUR.


THIS IS WHERE THE SO-CALLED "SECOND-STRING MEMBERS"—THE STAGEHANDS, NEWCOMERS, AND THE LIKE—LIVE.
FIRST, THESE ARE THE TENTS YE'LL BE SLEEPING IN.

THERE'S USUALLY TWO OR THREE TO A TENT.


THAT ONE
THE TENT ALL THE WAY BACK IS THE FIRST-AID TENT.
AND...

AND THAT THERE'S THE DINING TENT AND THE TENT THAT SERVES AS OUR LARDER.


IT'S UP TO YE NEW FOLK TO COOK UP THE MEALS TOO, SO GIVE IT YOUR BEST!

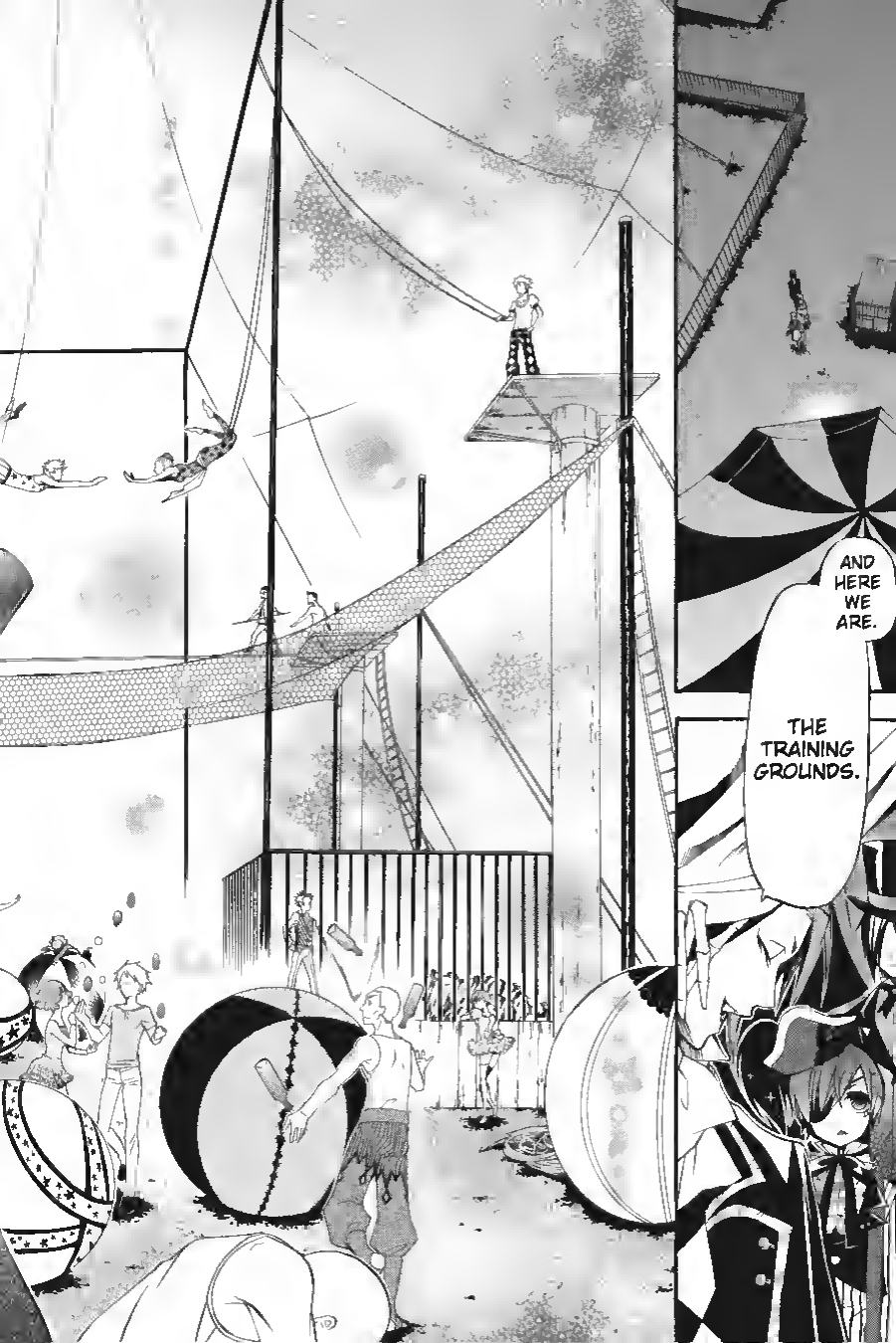
...FROM 'ERE ON BACK ARE THE PRIVATE TENTS OF THE MAIN CAST.

...THAT'S SNAKE'S TENT, SO YE SHOULD STAY AWAY FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.
THERE ARE A GREAT MANY POISONOUS SNAKES ROAMING FREE, SO ONE BITE, AND OFF YE GO TO THE OTHER SIDE.
PRIVATE TENTS?
WELL...
...ONCE YE HIT IT BIG, YE GET A PLACE TO YOUR-SELF.
OH, 'N' ONE MORE THING ...
SNAKE AND HIS SLITHERY FRIENDS ARE STILL VEEERY SHY—
SO NEW-COMERS ESPECIALLY SHOULD STAY SHARP 'ROUND THESE PARTS.
RIGHT THEN! MOVING ONNN!
EH!?
...WHAT'S BECOME OF YOUR RIGHT EYE, SMILE?
DOKI (BADUM)
AH... THIS...
THERE WAS AN ACCI-DENT ...
...BY THE WAY...

HOW SAD...
...FOR SOMEONE SO LITTLE TO HAVE HAD SUCH MISFORTUNE BEFALL HIM.
NIKO (SMILE)
NADE (PAT)
? ?
RIGHT...
NADE
.....

LIKE US, DID EVERYONE HERE JOIN THE TROUPE WHILE THE CIRCUS WAS MAKING THE ROUNDS?
NNN?
WELL...
...EVERYONE 'ERE'S GOT THEIR OWN ISSUES, SO YE'LL GET ALONG JUST FIIINE!
RIGHT!?
Y—
YES.

HE'S A GENIUS WITH HIS SNAKES, HE IS...
...AND WE WERE WITHOUT A SNAKE CHARMER AT THE TIME, SO HE BECAME A MEMBER RIGHT QUICK.
CHILD-HOOD FRIENDS ?
YEAH.
BUT SNAKE'S STILL A ROOKIE.
FOR THE MOST PART, YES. BUT ALL THE FIRST-STRING MEMBERS COME FROM THE SAME TOWN.
GUESS YE COULD SAY WE'RE ALL CHILDHOOD FRIENDS.
...TO THE FIRST STRING ...
THAT'S WHY EVERY-ONE DOES THEIR BEST TO GET TO THE TOP...
AND YE CAN GET YOUR OWN TENT.
IF YE JOIN THE FIRST STRING, YE DON'T HAVE TO HELP WITH PREP, AND YE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT FIGHTING FOR YOUR MEALS.

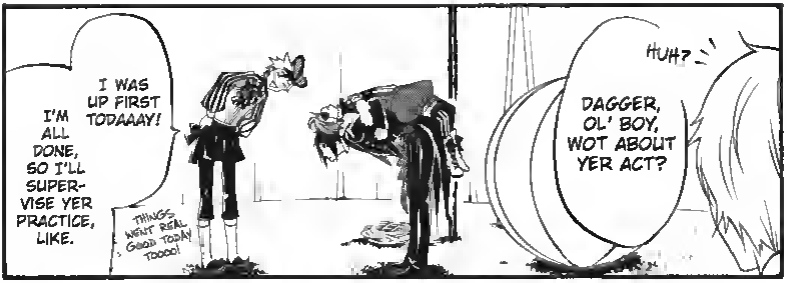

AND HERE WE ARE.
THE TRAINING GROUNDS.

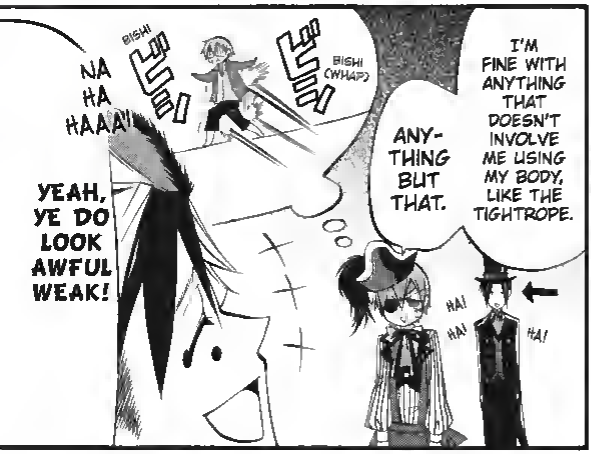
NEW-COMERS TRAIN AND TRAIN 'ERE...
...WITH THE HOPE OF DEBUTING IN AN ACTUAL PERFOR-MANCE ONE DAY.

IT'S ALMOST TIME!
I HEAR YE!
JOKER!
ONCE YE'VE MADE QUICK WORK OF YOUR WARM-UPS, THEN—
YE MUST ALWAYS START WITH THE BASICS.
WELL, GIVE IT ALL YE GOT, YE TWO—
KI (GLARE)
GUARD SNAKES INSTEAD OF GUARD DOGS, EH?
A TENT FULL OF POISONOUS SNAKES AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE MAIN CAST'S PRIVATE QUARTERS, HM?

SO TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE PRIVATE AREA, WE'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO GET INTO THE FIRST STRING... IS THAT IT?
YOUR BODY IS VERY STIFF.
GU CRUSH
GU
GU
POISONOUS SNAKES WON'T KILL YOU. GO SEE WHETHER THE CHILDREN ARE HERE OR—
THEY ARE NOT HERE.
I HAVE NOT SENSED THE PRESENCE OF ANY CHILDREN AT ALL IN THIS CIRCUS, NOT LAST NIGHT AND NOT DURING THE TOUR EARLIER.
EH?

DON'T SAY SUCH AN ILL-OMENED THING.
SHE WISHES FOR THE CHILDREN'S SAFE RETURN.
YES, SIR.
CHRRRR
NN
NN
NN
NN
...
SNIFF
SNIFF
BUT WE HAVE YET TO FIND PROOF THAT THE CIRCUS HAS NO RELATION TO THE MISSING CHILDREN.
WE CAN'T LEAVE UNTIL WE'VE LOOKED INTO ALL THE NOOKS AND CRANNIES OF THIS PLACE.
QUITE.
IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT THEY MAY BE IN SUCH A CONDITION THAT I WOULD BE UNABLE TO SENSE THEIR PRESENCE.
NU (POOF)
HEEEEY!!
YE CAN'T BE STRETCHIN' ALL SLOW AND STEADY, LIKE! PICK IT UUUP!
THAT REMINDS ME... STEAD F THE ILDREN, I DID ENSE—


I'M ALL DONE, SO I'LL SUPER-VISE YER PRACTICE, LIKE.
I WAS UP FIRST TODAAAY!
THINGS MIGHT REAL GOOD TODAY TOOOO!
DAGGER, OL' BOY, WOT ABOUT YER ACT?
HUH?


NA HA HAAA!
BISHI
BISHI
BISHI (WHAP)
YEAH, YE DO LOOK AWFUL WEAK!
ANY-THING BUT THAT.
I'M FINE WITH ANYTHING THAT DOESN'T INVOLVE ME USING MY BODY, LIKE THE TIGHTROPE.
HA!
HA!
HA!

FIRST, WE GOT'TA DECIDE ON WHAT'CHER ACT'S GONNA BE!
REQUESTS?

YE'VE GOT GOOD REFLEXES, RIIIGHT—
WELL, I DO NOT HAVE ANY REQUESTS IN PARTIC-ULAR...

WHAT ABOUT YOU, BLACK?
THEN I'LL TEACH SMILE ALL 'E NEEDS TO KNOW 'BOUT KNIFE THROWIN'.

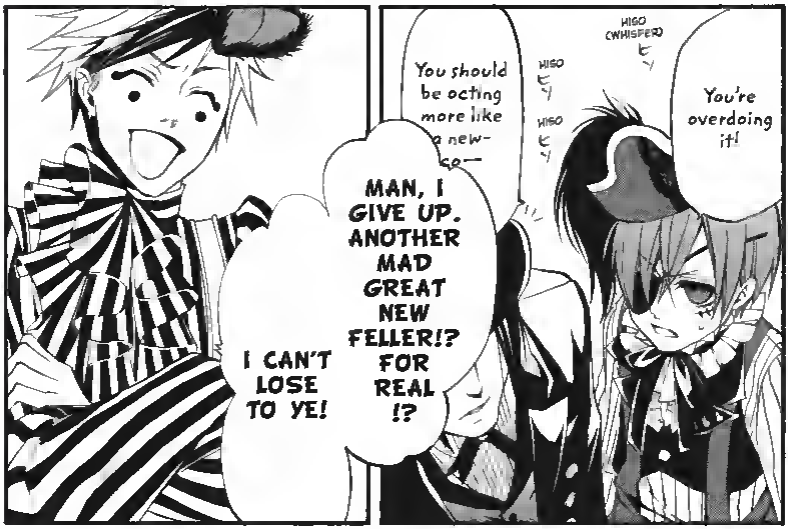
I'LL BE WATCHIN', SO SHOW ME WHAT YE CAN DO.
SHA (CASH)
YES!
PA (POOF)
GA (GRAB)
FIRST UP—
THE FLYING TRA-PEZE!
OHHHHHH!
SUTA (TAP)
NEXT—

おおおっ
AAAH!
POLE CLIMB-ING.
お
OOOH!
JUGGLING!
おおっ
おお
OOHHHHH!
PASSING THROUGH A RING OF FIRE!
お
OHHHH!
HIGH WIRE!
TRAMPOLINE
WHOOOA!
うおおおっ
おおおおお
OOOOH!

わっっ
WOOW!
WHOOOA!!
YER SOME-THIN' ELSE, BLACK!

OKAY, OKAY!!
THEN—
SNORT SNIKLOKKING

WOOW!
SUSUSU (SNEAK)
Hey!


You're overdoing it!
HIGO (WHISPER)
HIGO
HIGO
You should be acting more like a new-
MAN, I GIVE UP. ANOTHER MAD GREAT NEW FELLER!? FOR REAL !?
I CAN'T LOSE TO YE!

O'ER THERE.
THERE'S THIS GUY WHO'S JUST JOINED. 'E'S AMAZIN'!
NN?
SEE, NOW YE'VE GOT THEIR ATTENTION ...
... ANOTHER NEW-COMER?
HE USED TO BE A CIVIL SERVANT OR SOMETHIN' AND IS SERIOUS LIKE YE WOULDNA BELIEVE!
HEEEY, C'MON DOWN 'ERE FER A BIIIIT!

SUIT!

HE'S ...
H—

I THOUGHT I SENSED SOMETHING UNPLEASANT ...
IT WAS YOU, WAS IT?
GOOD GRIEF.
SHAKIIIN CKIIIIND
!!

KASHA
SSHU
KASHA
KASHA
WHAT EVER DID YOU COME SNIFFING AROUND TO DEVOUR THIS TIME?

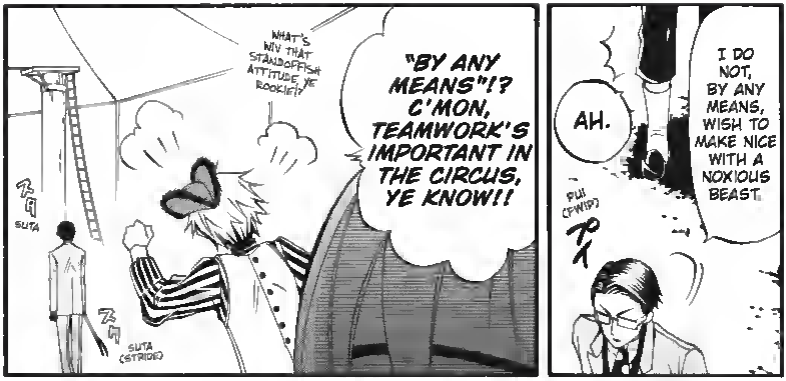
I NEVER THOUGHT WE WOULD MEET AGAIN...

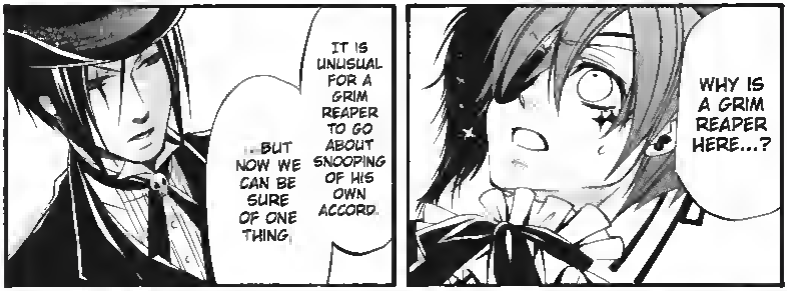
GOOD-NESS.

YOU DEVIL!

DAMN!
SEBAS-TIAN'S TRUE IDEN-TITY —!!
ZAWA (MURMUR)
ざわ
ざわ
DE... VIL?
YOU ...!
GRIM.. REAPER ...
N-NO, HE'S JUST —!
IN THIS DAY AND AGE, WHEN THERE ARE RARELY ENOUGH GRIM REAPERS TO GET THE JOB DONE EVEN AT THE BEST OF TIMES—
...THE APPEAR-ANCE OF A DEVIL MEANS I SHAN'T BE ABLE TO CLOCK OUT ON TIME YET AGAIN.
'E-'EY WHAT'RE YE TALKIN' ABOUT ...?
AHAHAHA

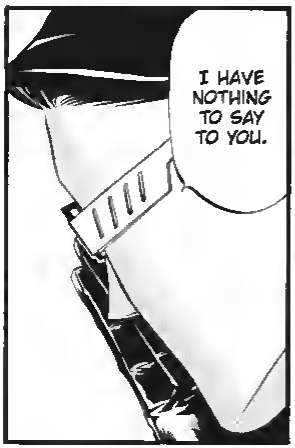
I AM NOT ONE FOR JOKING.
KUI (CRUSH)
'E'S ALWAYS GOIN' ON 'BOUT SOULS AND THE LIKE...
...AND 'E'S MAD FER ANYTHIN' TO DO WIV 'EM GHOSTS 'N' STUFF.
PISHI (PROPER)
SAGA (COMB)
BEEN SHOOTIN' OFF STRANGE JOKES FROM DAY ONE, 'E 'AS!
FUU
FHEW!
NOT A LAUGH!
HA HA HA!
YER ALL RISIN' STARS, SO PLAY NICE NOW!
I'LL INTRODUCE YE. THESE'RE THE ROOKIES WHO JOINED TODAY. THE TINY ONE'S SMILE.
THE BIG ONE'S BLACK.


"BY ANY MEANS"!? C'MON, TEAMWORK'S IMPORTANT IN THE CIRCUS, YE KNOW!!
WHAT'S WIV THAT STANDOFFISH ATTITUDE, YE ROOKIE!?
SUTA
SUTA (STRIDE)
I DO NOT, BY ANY MEANS, WISH TO MAKE NICE WITH A NOXIOUS BEAST.
AH.
FUI (WHISP)


...BUT NOW WE CAN BE SURE OF ONE THING.
IT IS UNUSUAL FOR A GRIM REAPER TO GO ABOUT SNOOPING OF HIS OWN ACCORD.
WHY IS A GRIM REAPER HERE...?

THERE IS SOMETHING GOING ON AT THIS CIRCUS AFTER ALL!

YE GOTTA PRACTICE, PRACTICE, SO YE DON'T LOSE OUT TO BLACK!
'EEEY! WHAT ARE YE DOIN', SMIIILE!?
R-RIGHT...
SEBAS-TIAN.
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S WORTH INVESTI-GATING.
AS YOU WISH.
ZURI (ORAG)
ZURI
I'LL TEACH YE THE ART O' KNIFE THROWIN'!!

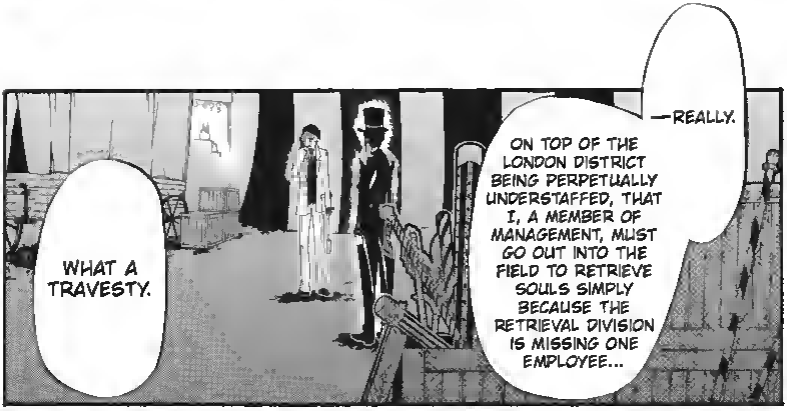

I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU.

PARDON ME. THERE IS A LITTLE SOMETHING I WOULD LIKE YOU TO TELL ME...
...OLD-TIMER.

PLEASE DO NOT BE LIKE THAT.

GO (RUMBLE)
GO GO GO
GU (STRAIN)
GU GU GU
GU GU GU
WOULD YE LOOK AT THAT! THEY'RE FRIENDS ALREADY!

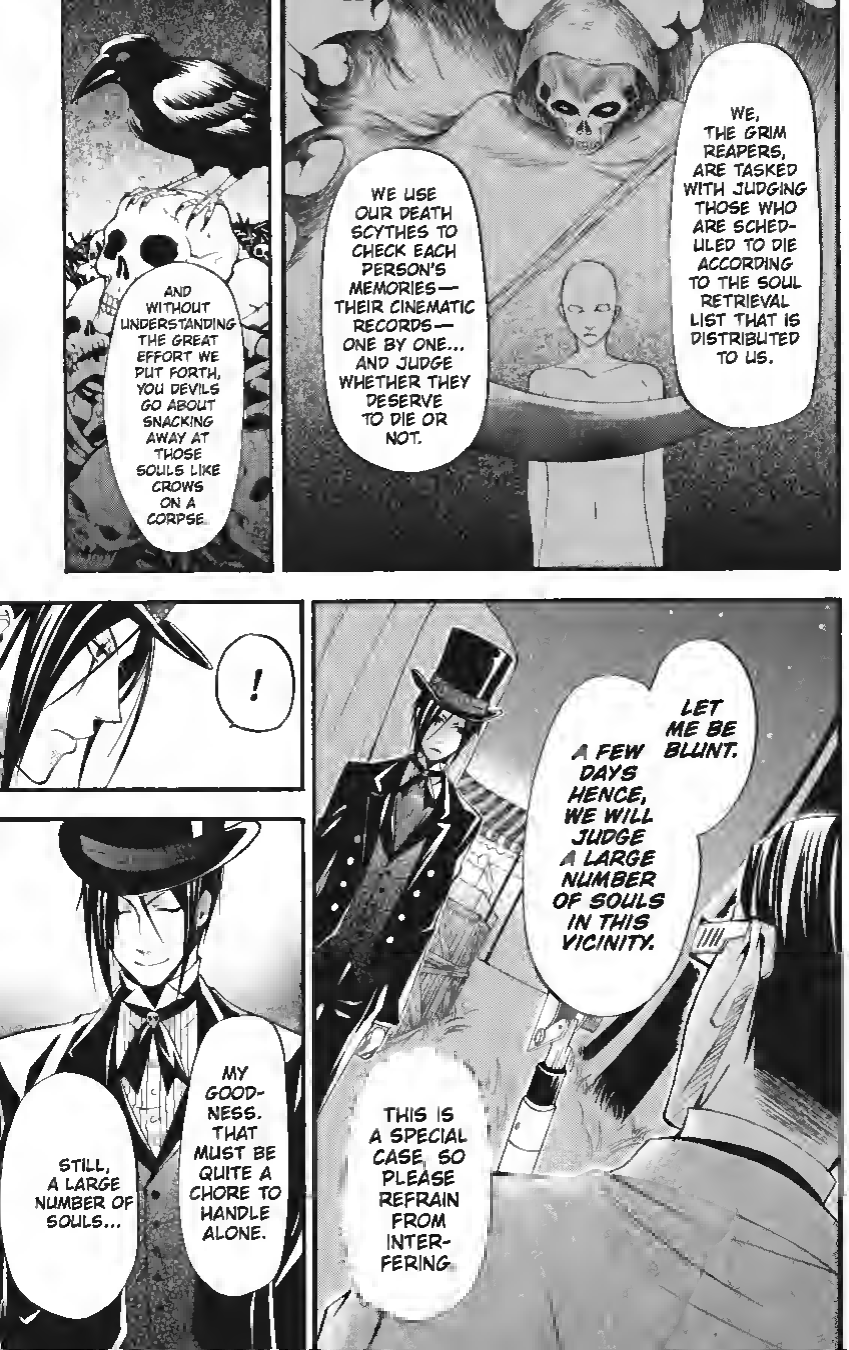
LET US STEP OUT-SIDE.
MIKI
MIKI (CRACK)


—REALLY.
ON TOP OF THE LONDON DISTRICT BEING PERPETUALLY UNDERSTAFFED, THAT I, A MEMBER OF MANAGEMENT, MUST GO OUT INTO THE FIELD TO RETRIEVE SOULS SIMPLY BECAUSE THE RETRIEVAL DIVISION IS MISSING ONE EMPLOYEE...
WHAT A TRAVESTY.

I'M HERE CLEANING UP AFTER THAT SCUM DISPATCH MEMBER WHO IS CURRENTLY SUSPENDED.
I DIDN'T THINK I WOULD BE MADE TO DO SO JUST BECAUSE THAT THING AND I ARE COWORKERS... AND WITHOUT ANY EXTRA PAY, AT THAT.
WOOOW...
WHOOOA!
OOHHH...
SO...
.. WHAT BRINGS SUCH A BUSY GRIM REAPER AS YOURSELF TO A PLACE LIKE THIS?
A REAPER TAKING THE TROUBLE TO COME HERE FOR THE PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATING COVERTLY LEADS ME TO BELIEVE...
...THAT PERHAPS THERE ARE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AT PLAY?
I CANNOT GIVE INFORMATION PERTAINING TO SOULS TO A FIEND.
KA (CLICK)
IT AMOUNTS TO THROWING A RABBIT IN FRONT OF A CARNIVORE.

I AM AFRAID ...
...I HAVE NO INTEREST IN CHEAP SOULS.
BIG TALK FOR A STARVING DEVIL.
WHEN THE REALITY IS THAT YOU'RE MAD WITH HUNGER.
I GREW WEARY OF INDIS-CRIMINATELY DEVOURING SOULS LONG AGO.

THE MORE RAVENOUS I AM...
...THE MORE DELICIOUS THE DINNER.
SFX: GUI (TUG)
MORE-OVER, AS I HAVE A COLLAR AROUND MY NECK AT THE MOMENT...
...YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR.
HEH.
YOU HAVE POOR TASTE ...
THAT RUBBISH EMPLOYEE OF YOURS STILL HAS ME SQUARELY BEAT.
VERY WELL.
.....
SINCE YOU HAVE THE HONOUR OF BEING THE GREATEST OF EVILS TO APPEAR "BEFORE I GET TO WORK," LET ME WARN YOU.
TON (TOK)


WE, THE GRIM REAPERS, ARE TASKED WITH JUDGING THOSE WHO ARE SCHEDULED TO DIE ACCORDING TO THE SOUL RETRIEVAL LIST THAT IS DISTRIBUTED TO US.
WE USE OUR DEATH SCYTHES TO CHECK EACH PERSON'S MEMORIES—THEIR CINEMATIC RECORDS—ONE BY ONE... AND JUDGE WHETHER THEY DESERVE TO DIE OR NOT.
AND WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING THE GREAT EFFORT WE PUT FORTH, YOU DEVILS GO ABOUT SNACKING AWAY AT THOSE SOULS LIKE CROWS ON A CORPSE.
LET ME BE BLUNT.
A FEW DAYS HENCE, WE WILL JUDGE A LARGE NUMBER OF SOULS IN THIS VICINITY.
THIS IS A SPECIAL CASE, SO PLEASE REFRAIN FROM INTERFERING.
!
MY GOODNESS. THAT MUST BE QUITE A CHORE TO HANDLE ALONE.
STILL, A LARGE NUMBER OF SOULS...

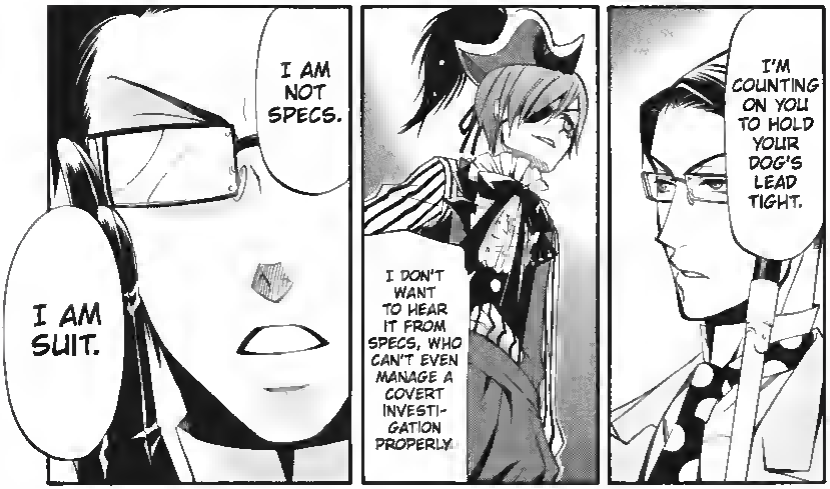
JAKIIN
CKIIIIND
SHALL I LEND YOU A HAND?

I REFUSE TO WORK OVERTIME FREE OF CHARGE.
I WILL HUNT YOU DOWN IF YOU GET IN MY WAY.
PI (TMP)
KASHA (KSHK)
KASHA
WELL, I MYSELF HAVE NO DESIRE TO BE INVOLVED WITH GRIM REAPERS EITHER.
I AM NOT INTERESTED IN SECOND-RATE SOULS AFTER ALL.

THAT NOISY KNIFE THROWER IS LOOKING FOR YOU.
HEY!
GIRO (GLARE)
STOP CALLING SEBASTIAN THAT.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT IF THE TROUPE MEMBERS GET SUSPICIOUS?
HE DOESN'T SEEM ALL THAT HIGH-QUALITY TO ME.....
I TRULY DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU DEVILS...
TSUKA (STUD)
YOU.
TSUKA
WE WERE LUCKY THEY THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST JOKING BEFORE, BUT...
...THE FACT THAT YOU CAN'T EVEN BLEND IN AMONG PEOPLE MAKES YOU LOWER THAN THAT VULGAR REAPER.
HA!
HA! (SCORN)

PERFECT.
IT'S SETTLED THEN. WE AGREE TO NOT INTERFERE WITH EACH OTHER AT ALL.
THANK YOU.
I DO NOT EVEN WANT YOU IN MY FIELD OF VISION.
INDEED. AS WE WILL NOT GET IN THE WAY OF YOUR DUTIES...
...WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL NOT GET IN THE WAY OF OURS.
BISHAAAA (CRACKLE)

URK.
SMILE.
RIGHT THEN.


I AM NOT SPECS.
I AM SUIT.
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT FROM SPECS, WHO CAN'T EVEN MANAGE A COVERT INVESTI-GATION PROPERLY.
I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO HOLD YOUR DOG'S LEAD TIGHT.

COME ON, SEBASTIAN.
YES, SIR.

TIME TO ANNOUNCE ROOM ASSIGN-MENTS FOR THE ROOKIES!
WELL...
...NOW HERE'S WHAT YE'VE BEEN WAITING FORRR!

SMILE, SMILE!
Y-YES...
THE TRAINING IS MORE EXHAUSTING THAN I'D THOUGHT ...!!
WHAT'S WRONG THERE, SMILE? YOU LOOK DOWN!
HAAH HAAH

ZUUN GUUUN
YES.
HAAH...
HAAH...

THIS IS YOUR ROOM-MATE.
THE RESULTS OF THE IMPARTIAL LOTTERY ARE AS FOL-LOWS—
SMILE WILL BE IN TENT EIGHT.

AND...
...BLACK WILL BE IN TENT NINE.
I'M SUDDENLY SHARING A ROOM WITH A STRANGER... THIS WILL MAKE THINGS DIFFICULT.
NIKO CRUNCH
NIKO CRUNCH
AH-HA-HA-HA! SMILE SURE IS SWEET ON BLACK.
YE GOTTA LEARN TO BE MORE INDEPEN-DENT!
TH-THAT ISN'T WHAT I MEAN—
HN?
!!?
SEBA— BLACK AND I WON'T BE IN THE SAME TENT!?
I REALLY O THINK SHOULD E WITH LACK—
AND BLACK'S ROOMMATE IS—
THIS ISN'T GOOD.
IF I'M SEPARATED FROM SEBASTIAN, I WON'T BE ABLE TO MOVE ABOUT—

SUIT!

SFX: GO (RUMBLE) GO GO GO GO
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
GUESS WE'RE OUTTA HERE.
YE KIDS GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER NOW!
RIGHTY, SLEEP TIIIIGHT!
HEY, WAI—
WHA!!??
HA HA HA!
BLACK 'N' SMILE'RE ALREADY FRIENDS. THIS'S YER CHANCE TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS!
♬
AIN'T THAT GREAT!?
ぽっん…
POTSUN (ALONE)

THIS IS THE WORST.
MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY.
LET'S SHAKE HANDS!
.....
NICE TO MEETCHA, SMILE!
RIGHT...
BUN
BUN (SHAKE)

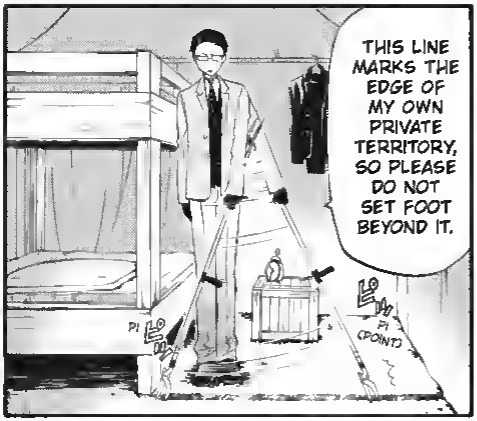
Black Butler

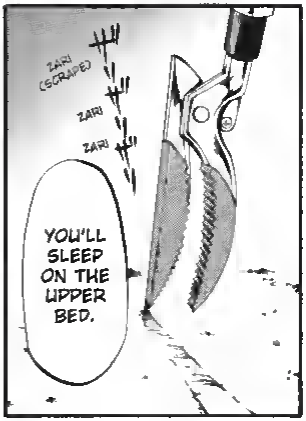
Chapter 27

At midnight : The Butler, Performs

Black Butler

...CAN I SLEEP ON THE TOP BUNK?
BY ALL MEANS. I WAS JUST THINKING I WOULD PREFER THE LOWER BUNK.
I DON'T WANT TO CLIMB UP THERE
SAY...
D-DO I?
IT MUST BE BECAUSE I'VE BEEN WORKING AT A MANOR SINCE I WAS LITTLE...
EH!?
I'VE BEEN THINKIN'. YOU SURE SPEAK REAL PRETTY 'N' UPPER CRUST, LIKE.
I'LL TAKE CARAMEL THEN.
AHHH OUR OWN PRODUCT
DAMN! I WON'T BE ABLE TO VISIT SEBASTIAN'S TENT LIKE THIS.
I KNOW! WANT SOME CANDY?
IT'S THAT POPULAR FUNTOM KIND!
I GOT CARAMEL, MILK, AND STRAWBERRY! WHICH ONE YOU WANT?
OHHH! WELL, IF YOU NEED HELP, ASK ME ANYTHIN'! I'VE BEEN IN THE CIRCUS A LOT LONGER THAN YOU!


THIS LINE MARKS THE EDGE OF MY OWN PRIVATE TERRITORY, SO PLEASE DO NOT SET FOOT BEYOND IT.
PI
PI (POINT)


ZARI (SCRAPE)
ZARI
ZARI
YOU'LL SLEEP ON THE UPPER BED.

MY KIND DOES ENJOY SLEEP AS A LUXURY, HOW-EVER...

LET ME MAKE ONE THING CLEAR FROM THE OUTSET. UNLIKE DEVILS, GRIM REAPERS NEED TO SLEEP.
DON'T MAKE NOISES LATE AT NIGHT AND DISTURB MY REST.
KUI (PUSH)

I SAY! WHY MUST I LIVE WITH A DEVIL ...?
VERY WELL.
BUTSU
BUTSU (MUTTER)

むくり
MUKURI (RISE)
SAKUIN (CRUNCH)
WHERE ARE YOU GOING? LIGHTS-OUT WAS AGES AGO. FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE...
I WON'T STAND FOR YOU SNATCHING SOULS WHILE I SLEEP. PLEASE DO NOT GO WANDERING WITHOUT YOUR MASTER.
K-SHU (SHU)
K-SHU

I SHALL BE RATHER BORED TILL MORNING
.....
HEY!
...Y.
WHAT'RE YOU SAYIN', SMILE!?
WAKE UP!
...Se-bas-tian?
U...Nn
YUSA ゆさ
YUSA (SHAKE) ゆさ
SFX: DOKI (BADUMP DOKI)
NO TAKIN' IT EASY AND STAYIN' IN BED!
ROOKIES GOTTA GET UP EARLY AND MAKE THE MORNIN' GRUB!
YES!
ガバ
GABA (RISE)
!!!
OH!
YER FINALLY AWAKE.

TOO SLOW!
SMILE, I'M GONNA LEAVE YOU BEHIND!!
COMING!
もた
MOTA
もた
MOTA
もた
MOTA
もた
MOTA (TRUDGE)
ざわ
ZAWA
CAN YOU REALLY CALL THAT PERSONAL GROOMING?
ざわ
ZAWA (BUZZ)
ぶるぶる
BURUBURU (SHAKE)
LOOK WHO'S HERE
IT SEEMS YOU CANNOT EVEN DRESS YOURSELF PROPERLY.
I WAS IN A HURRY.

YOU WILL HAVE TROUBLE UNDOING A HALF-KNOT ALONE.

DEAR, OH DEAR.

じ
JIIII (STAAARE)
ﾌﾌﾌ
HA (GASP)
はッ!!

Sebastian!
Do not treat me as your master while we're here!
Leave me alone!
UNDERSTOOD. ...THEN WITHOUT DELAY—

GATA (RISE)
SMIIIILE! SO, LIKE, BLACK AIN'T YOUR MUM, OKAY!?
AH HA HA HA HA HA!
NO—! THIS IS...
A HABIT. I MEAN, I JUST HAPPENED TO..

SMILE, WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO MAKE WITH THE POTATOES WHEN THE SKINS HAVE MORE POTATO ON THEM THAN THE POTATOES THEMSELVES?
EH ...!?
ARGH!
SMIIILE!! WHAT'RE YOOOU DOIIIN'!?
AND YOU PEELED SO MANY OF 'EM!!
I...
...I'M SORRY!

TODAY'S SIDES
fish & chips
I BELIEVE THERE WAS SOME FISH IN THE LARDER.
LET US FRY THESE NICE AND CRISPY AS-IS AND MAKE FISH AND CHIPS.
THERE IS NOTHING ELSE TO BE DONE..
ARRRGH. THERE AIN'T MUCH LEFT TO EAT...

HEH
I AM GLAD.
AH.
I LIKE THAT!

WHOOOOA!
THE MEAT PIES ARE HERE
RAAAH!!
OUTTA MY WAAAA

ZAWA
ZAWA (HUZZ)

LET'S GO, SMILE!!
IF'N YOU DON'T HURRY, YOU WON'T GET NO MEAT!!
EH? G-...?

YOU'RE A SHORT, LITTLE BAG O' BONES, SO FILL YOUR BELLY AND GROW BIG!
AWWW, FINE! I'LL GIVE YOU SOME O' MY SIDES!
AWRIGHT?
HYOI
HYOI (PLOP)
TH-
THANK YOU...

BOROOON (TATTERED)
HUH. SO YOU ONLY MANAGED TO GET BREAD IN THE END.
YES...

BUT GOSH, I GOTTA SAY... BLACK'S COOKIN' IS REALLY ACE!!
IT IS.
GAJI (BITE)
HE USED TO BE A BUTLER, I HEAR. GUESS BUTLERS ARE EVEN GOOD AT MAKIN' GRUB!
HE SURE TURNED THE TATER SKINS YOU MESSED UP INTO SOMETHIN' DELICIOUS.
YES.
EH?
ALREADY ?
GOOD, I'M DONE! THANKS FOR THE CHOW! TIME TO PRACTICE! C'MON!
GEPPU (BURP)
KARA (EMPTY)
UWAH!
OW ...
HEY! HEYYY! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR SENSE OF BALANCE FROM THE TRYOUT!?
THESE ARE THE BASICS, THE REAL BASICS!
OOOHHHHH!

BLACK IS AMAZING!!
NO!
SUIT'S DOIN' JUST AS WELL!
DOOOON
GUUUUMO
DON'T LET 'EM LEAVE YOU BEHIND!
YOU GOTTA GET BACK ON TRACK QUICK.
THEY'RE REALLY SOMETHIN'!!
...YES.
WHOA!
THEY CAN'T BE HUMAN!

IT'S COLD AT NIGHT, SO YOU OUGHTA SHOWER DURING THE DAY!
PAA (SPARKLE)
THERE'S A SHOWER HERE?
YEAH! YEAH!
NHGEEH!!!
I'M ALL SWEATY! LET'S GO TAKE A SHOWER, SMILE!
Eh?
HFF...
HAAH...
HAAH...
HFF...

行
OPEN AIR
氷
!!!?
GHHH SMILE
SEE? HERE.
YOU'LL BE AWRIGHT IF YOU POUR WATER ON YOU AND DRY OFF QUICK!
THEY SAY 'EM NOBLE TYPES GO SWIMMIN' IN WINTER FOR GOOD HEALTH.
SHOW OFF WITH 'EM CLOTHES, OFF WITH 'EM CLOTHES!
GUIII (TUG)
UWAH!
I'LL WASH YOUR BACK!
NIKOYAKA (BEAM)
YOU CALL THIS A SHOWER...!?
C'MON, TAKE IT OFF!
TAPU (SLOSH)
I-IT'S THE DEAD OF WINTER, BUT WE SHOWER OUTSIDE!? AND ISN'T THAT COLD WATER...?
MATTER-OF-FACTLY
'TIS.

I-I THINK I'LL PASS AFTER ALL!
E'S NIV THAT ROOKIE AGAIN.
C'MON, DON'T BE SHY!
I'M NOT BEING SHY—
!?
WHOA!!
AH!
BASHAAAAN (KASPLASH)
BWAH!!

ビショぬれ (SOAKED)
……!
ガラランッ (RATTLE)
ポタ (DRIP)
……WOULD YOU MIND GETTING OFF OF ME?
UWAAAH (COLLD)
AWWW GEEZ!! YOU MADE A FUSS AND GOT ME WET TOO!
ドガ
HERE!
GUH (CHANK)
STO…
GU (PUSH)
WAIT... PLEASE STOP!
BUT YOU'LL CATCH A COLD LIKE THIS!
GU (TUG)
HERE, UP WITH YOUR ARMS.
YOU'RE SOAKED NOW ANYWAY, SO TAKE OFF 'EM CLOTHES.
!!!

LET GO OF ME!
BASHI (SLAP)
SMILE!

ZAWA
DID THEY GET INTO IT?
ZAWA
WOT'S ALL THE FUSS?
WHAT'S WIV 'IM?
FUWA (PWAT)
GACHI
GACHI
GACHI (SHIVER)
YOU WILL CATCH A COLD.

PLEASE CHANGE INTO THESE.
YES?
HAD ENOUGH.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH!
I'LL GO MAD IF I'M MADE TO CONTINUE LIVING LIKE THIS!!
OH DEAR... ARE YOU GIVING UP ALREADY?
KATA SHUN
YOU LACK FORTITUDE.
GOING MAD FROM SOMETHING OF THIS SORT...

ZOKU (SHIVER)
...IS NOT LIKE YOUNG MASTER AT ALL.
I, THE HEAD OF THE PHANTOMHIVE FAMILY, LIVING LIKE THIS...
NO, IT OUGHT NOT TO BE LIKE ME AT ALL.
HAH.
NOT LIKE ME... HM...?
GYU (CLENCH)
INDEED.

—AS YOU WISH.
SAGA (FLAP)
WE'LL GET THIS OVER WITH QUICKLY.
I THOUGHT I WOULD QUIETLY AIM TO BE PROMOTED THERE...
...WE NEED ONLY INVESTIGATE THE TENTS OF THE FIRST STRING BEFORE WE DEPART.
IN ANY CASE...
I CANNOT GO OUT AT NIGHT, AS THE GRIM REAPER IS IN THE WAY.
...BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO LEISURELY BIDE MY TIME IN THIS ENVIRON-MENT.
I'M AT MY WITS' END.

FORCING OUR WAY THROUGH WILL BE THE EASIEST APPROACH.
ピク
PIKU (TWITCH)
THE GRIM REAPER MAY BE AROUND, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THEY ARE GUILTY.
YES, SIR.
JUST LIE LOW FOR NOW.
WE SHOULD SNOOP AROUND WHEN THE MEMBERS OF THE FIRST STRING HAVE LEFT THEIR TENTS TO PERFORM.
ふるふる
FURU FURU (SHAKE)
IF I CAN'T MOVE FREELY, THERE'S NO POINT TO ALL THIS...
BUT FIRST I HAVE TO THINK OF A WAY TO SHAKE OFF THAT CLINGY FRECKLE FACE...
FUUU (SIGH)
ふぅ
!!!
...

NOAH'S ARK CIRCUS
...I'D LIKE TO RETURN TO THE MANOR QUICKLY AND EAT SWEETS OVER A CUP OF HOT TEA.
HEH
I WILL HAVE THEM READY UPON OUR RETURN.
ZAWA (BUZZ)
EVERY-ONNNE, THE SHOW'S STARTING SOON, SO GET CRACKING NOW!
HAVE YOU SEEN MY HAIR ORNAMENT?
ZAWA
Here it is.
I DON'T 'AVE ENOUGH KNIVES!
MY SPARES! WHERE'D THEY GO!?
ZAWA
YES!

UM...
...WHAT SHOULD I DO DURING THE PERFOR-MANCE?
WILL I GET TO INVESTIGATE THE TENTS FIRST, OR WILL I COLLAPSE FROM FATIGUE FIRST?
DOSA (THUD)
—HAAH...
NN?
NN?
SEBAS-TIAN!
I LOST FRECKLE FACE!
TA DASHO
TA
GATA GOTOKO

WE'LL SETTLE THIS ALL IN TEN MINUTES!
DA (DASH)
YES, MY LORD.
WHO KNOWS WHEN WE'LL GET ANOTHER CHANCE.
LET'S LOOK INTO THE TENTS NOW AND BE DONE WITH IT!
BLACK!
PITA (FREEZE)
BIG SIS WENDY HERE SPRAINED HER ANKLE AND CAN'T PERFORM.
SO BLACK...

BLACK OUGHTA BE FINE OUT THERE, SO PLEASE.
...!
...YOU GO INSTEAD.
YOUNG MASTER. IT IS A SHAME, BUT LET US INVESTIGATE AT ANOTHER TIME.
.....
YOU'RE GOING TO BE UP ANY MINUTE NOW, SO GET READY!
AND THIS MAY BE THE ONLY TIME FRECKLE FACE ISN'T AROUND.
I CAN'T DAWDLE HERE FOREVER.
?
YOUNG MASTER?

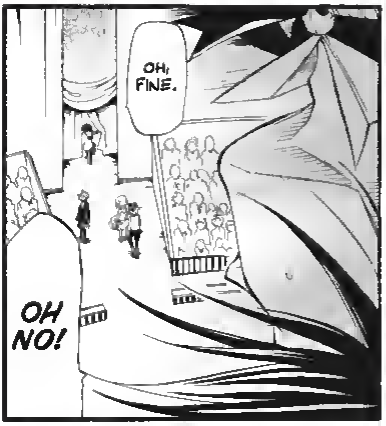
ACCORDING TO THE TIMETABLE, YOU FINISH PERFORMING AT 7:50. THE ENCORE IS AT 8:00.
I HAVE TIME.
THE POISONOUS SNAKES ARE THE ONLY PROBLEM.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
LET'S GO!
AS YOU WISH.
YOU HAVE FIVE MINUTES TO CAPTURE ALL THE SNAKES AND THEN PROCEED TO THE PERFORMANCE
SARA CIANCOLA
AT 7:50, YOU'LL RETURN BACKSTAGE MOMENTARILY, FREE ALL THE SNAKES, AND APPEAR IN THE ENCORE.

KYU (TIE)
THAT IS ALL OF THEM.
I WILL RETURN SOON.
GOOD. YOU GO TO THE BIG TOP. THEY'LL BE SUSPICIOUS IF YOU'RE LATE.
YES, SIR.

WHY MUST I PAIR UP WITH YOU?
I CAN'T AGREE TO THIS.
'TWAS, BUT BROTHER PETER WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SUPPORT YE
WAS MISS WENDY NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS HURT?
I DO NOT WANT TO EITHER. BUT WE CANNOT HELP IT.
BUTSU (MUTTER)
I CAN'T BELIEVE I HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER WITH A NOXIOUS BEAST...
BUTSU
REALLY.
PACHI (SNAP)
7:30.
JAKA (JANGLE)

THERE'S NOTHING MUCH IN THIS TENT.
NN?
A PHOTO-GRAPH OF CHILDREN?
THEY MUST BE THE MEMBERS OF THE FIRST STRING.
NN?
WHO IS THIS MAN...?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I REFUSE TO TOUCH A FIEND LIKE YOU.

BYUUUUN (ZOOOOM)
BUT THAT WILL NOT MAKE FOR MUCH OF A SHOW!
TSUUUN (ZNUP)
TI (SNAP)
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
DAGGER'S VISION
KYAAAAH!
WAAAAH! YOU GUYS DON'T LOOK.
PUTSU (SNAP)
AH! MY LACE.
NOOOO, MY LAAACE!


OH, FINE.
OH NO!

SO, THERE'S STILL TIME TILL THE ENCORE SO PLEASE CHANGE!
!?
C'MON!

HE'S HERE TOO.

IT'S THE SAME MAN AS IN THE PHOTO WITH THE CHILDREN.

I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU—
JUST GIVE ME YOUR HANDS QUICK!
NOT IN A MILLION YEARS.
JA (CHAK)
I UNDERSTAND. IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO TOUCH ME...
MY HANDS WILL ROT AWAY IF I TOUCH YOU.
...THEN THIS...
GA (GRAB)

...SHOULD DO!
BUN (SWING)
キャアアアアーッ
KYAAAAAH!

NN?

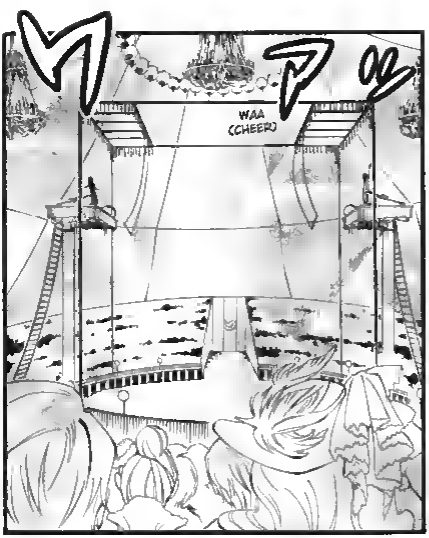
WAAH!
THE AUDIENCE SURE IS ENJOYING THE SHOW.
KYAAH!

KYAAAH!
WAAH!

IS THIS A WORK-HOUSE?
THIS SIGN BEHIND THEM...
THAT WAS CLOSE!!

SFX: KACHI (CLICK)
KASHA (SHA)
KASHA
KASHA
LET GO OF THE DEATH SCYTHE!
I CANNOT DO THAT.
GU (GRAB)

HUP!!
GUN (SWING)



SFX: PACHI (CLAP) PACHI PACHI

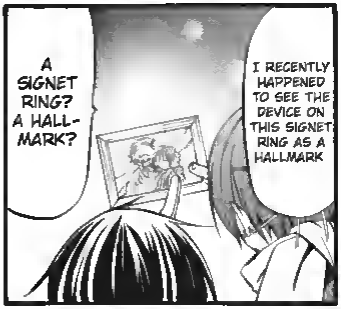
BUT ALL THE FIRST-STRING MEMBERS COME FROM THE SAME TOWN...
SO THE FIRST STRING MEMBERS ARE ALL FROM SOME WORK-HOUSE, HM?
BUT WHICH WORKHOUSE IS IT? THE KIDS ARE BLOCKING MY VIEW.
GOGO (CREAK)
GOGO
GOGO
ARE THERE BETTER PHOTOS IN HERE—?
SHA (OPEN)
PIKU (TWITCH)
TSUKA (STRUT)
TSUKA

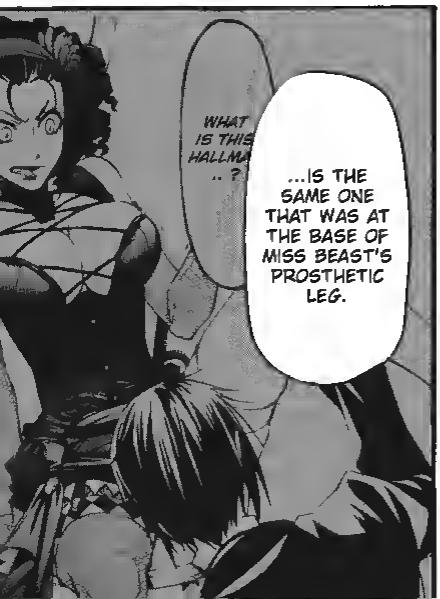
SFX: SU (SLIDE) SU SU

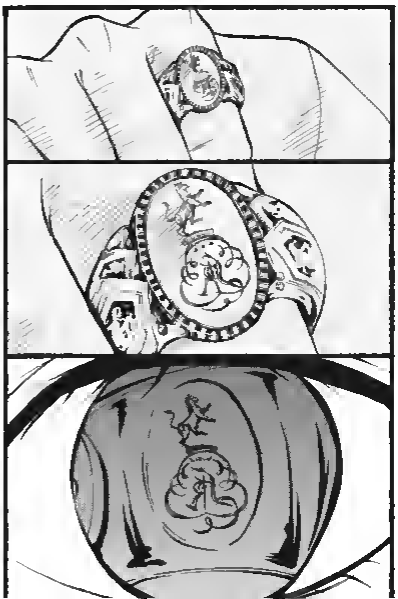
LET ME SEE.

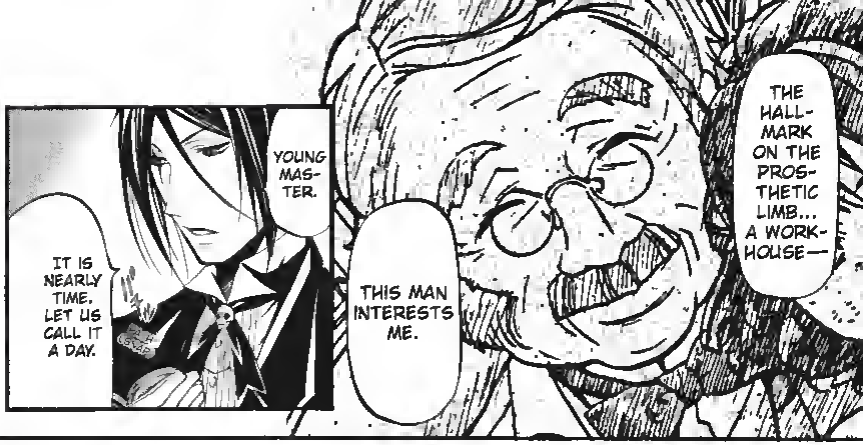
I SEE.
THEN YOUNG MASTER BELIEVES THERE IS SOME-THING MORE TO THAT PHOTO.
YES.
SEBASTIAN, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU NOTICE ABOUT IT?

SO YOU CAN EVEN SEE SOMETHING THIS SMALL?
YES. I BELIEVE THIS HALL-MARK...

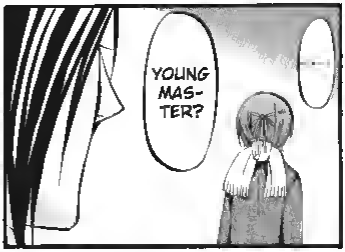

A SIGNET RING? A HALL-MARK?
I RECENTLY HAPPENED TO SEE THE DEVICE ON THIS SIGNET RING AS A HALLMARK

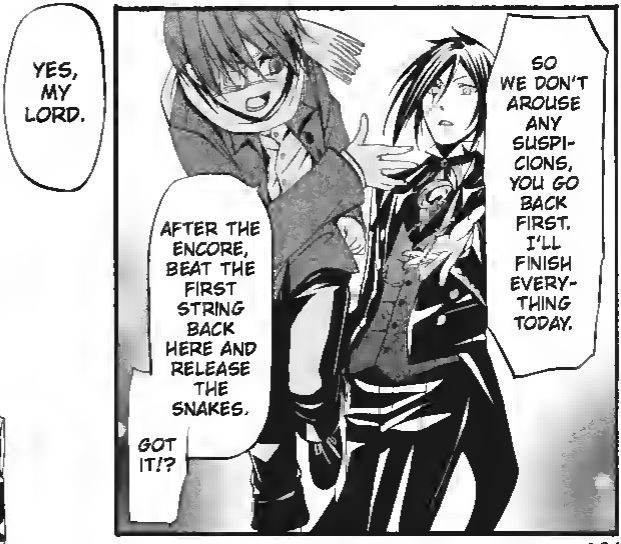

WHAT IS THIS HALLMA .. ?
...IS THE SAME ONE THAT WAS AT THE BASE OF MISS BEAST'S PROSTHETIC LEG.

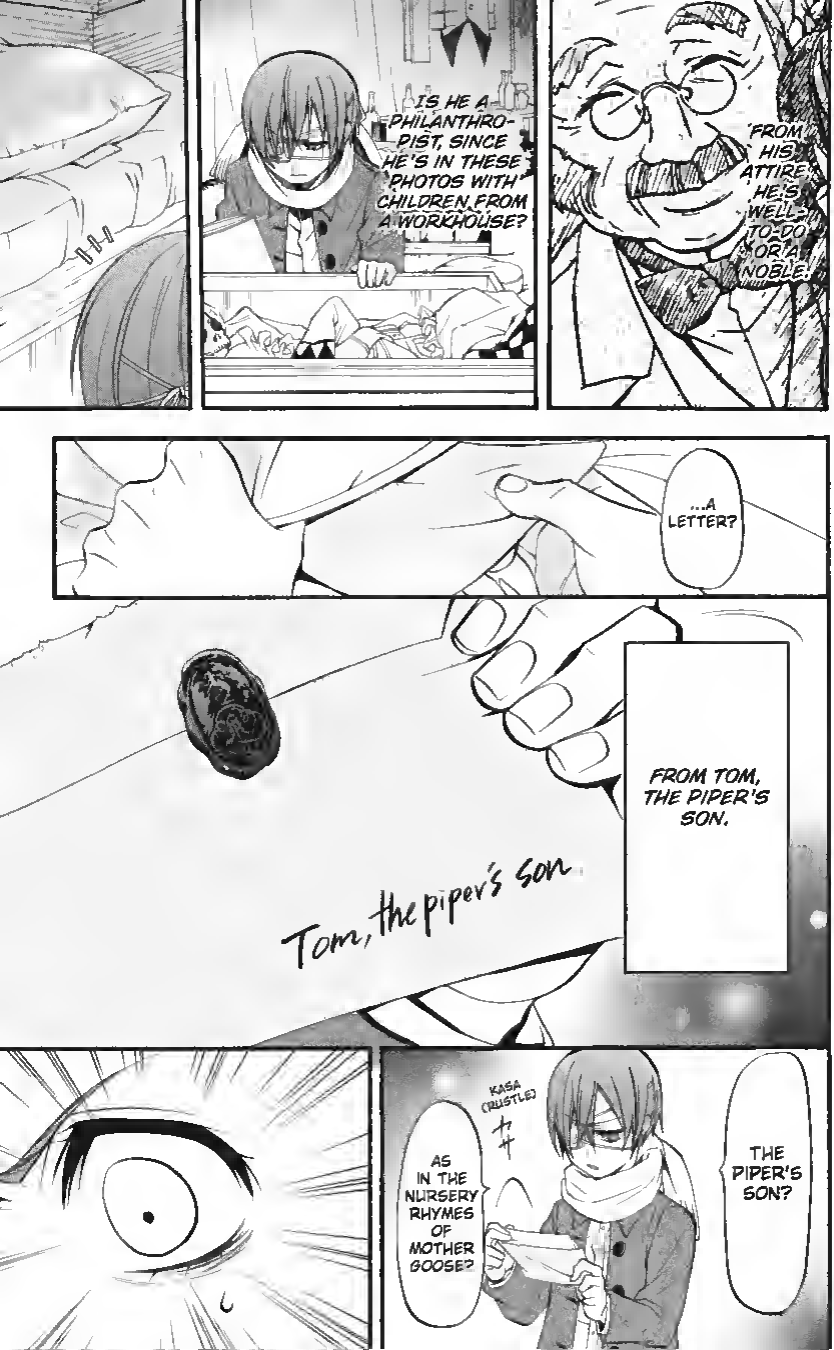



THE HALLMARK ON THE PROSTHETIC LIMB... A WORKHOUSE—
THIS MAN INTERESTS ME.
YOUNG MASTER.
IT IS NEARLY TIME. LET US CALL IT A DAY.

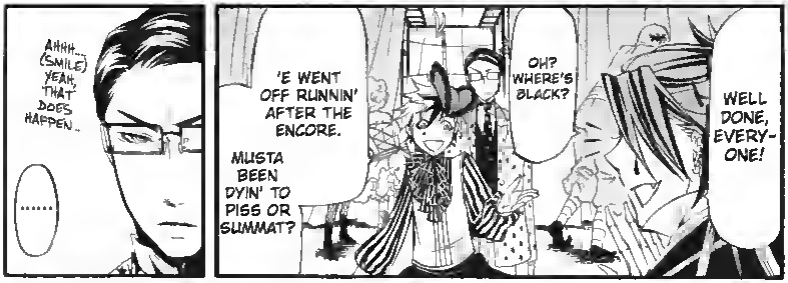
I STILL NEED TO INVESTIGATE JOKER'S TENT.
TIME IS SHORT, BUT I STILL HAVE EIGHT MINUTES.


YOUNG MASTER?


SO WE DON'T AROUSE ANY SUSPICIONS, YOU GO BACK FIRST. I'LL FINISH EVERYTHING TODAY.
AFTER THE ENCORE, BEAT THE FIRST STRING BACK HERE AND RELEASE THE SNAKES.
GOT IT!?
YES, MY LORD.


...H
IS HE A PHILANTHROPIST, SINCE HE'S IN THESE PHOTOS WITH CHILDREN FROM A WORKHOUSE?
FROM HIS ATTIRE, HE IS WELL-TO-DO OR A NOBLE.
...A LETTER?
FROM TOM, THE PIPER'S SON.
Tom, the piper's son
KASA (RUSTLE)
AS IN THE NURSERY RHYMES OF MOTHER GOOSE?
THE PIPER'S SON?

WHY...?
THIS...
Ciel Phantomhive
Birth: 14th December 1875
...IS MY NAME!!


AHHH... (SMILE) YEAH, THAT DOES HAPPEN...
.....
'E WENT OFF RUNNIN' AFTER THE ENCORE.
MUSTA BEEN DYIN' TO PISS OR SUMMAT?
OH? WHERE'S BLACK?
WELL DONE, EVERY-ONE!

HISSS!
HISSS!

GAIN (CHATTER)
GAHA
HA (GASP)
WHY!? WHY IS MY NAME HERE!?
DO THEY KNOW WHO I AM!?
SA (HIDE)
SA (SHOVE)
DAMN!!
THE FIRST STRING IS BACK!
...DAMMIT. I CAME IN TOO FAR.
I HAVE TO GET BACK BEFORE THEY FIND ME.
AREN'T YE HUNGRY?
WANNA GO TO THE DINING TENT?

HEY.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?
To be continued in Black Butler 7

Black Butler
黒執事

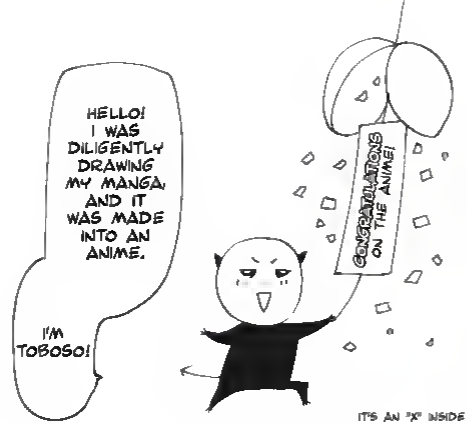
Downstairs

Wakana Haduki
Akiyo Satorigi
SuKe
Kiyo
7
Nobuko.M
*
Takeshi Kuma
*
Yana Toboso

SpecialThanks

Yana's Mother

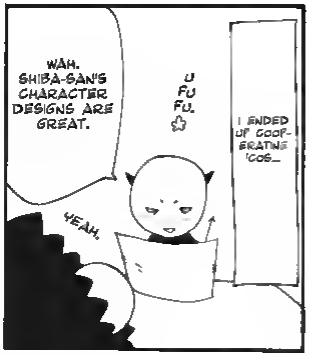
for You!

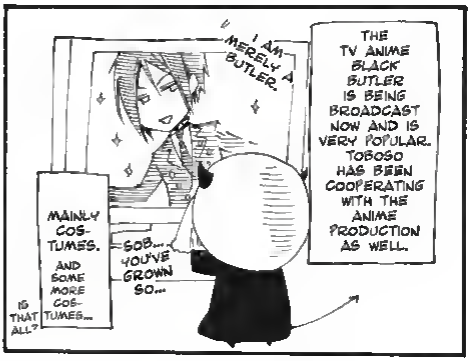


DOWN-STAIRS WITH BLACK BUTLER IVC

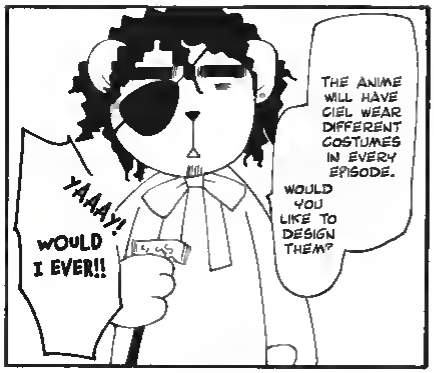
I SHALL REPEAT AS MANY TIMES AS NECESSARY. IT'S TOBOSO (枢), NOT HITSUGI(枢)!!!

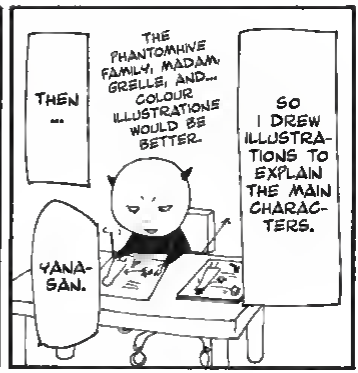
IT'S AN "X" INSIDE THE "C" DEATH! ★↑

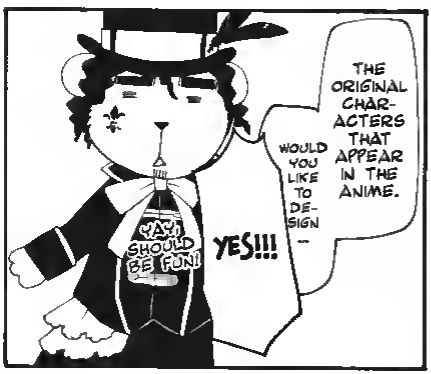



I AM MERELY A BUTLER.
THE TV ANIME BLACK BUTLER IS BEING BROADCAST NOW AND IS VERY POPULAR. TOBOSO HAS BEEN COOPERATING WITH THE ANIME PRODUCTION AS WELL.
MAINLY COS-TUMES.
AND SOME MORE COS-TUMES...
IS THAT ALL?
SOB... YOU'VE GROWN SO...

YOU'RE A MANGAKA.
KUMA-SAN; YOU'RE SMART.
THEN...
...JUST DRAW AND EXPLAIN.
I MEAN, THE CLOTHES ARE COMPLICATED WITH YOUR CHARACTERS, SO IT'S HARD TO UNDERSTAND.

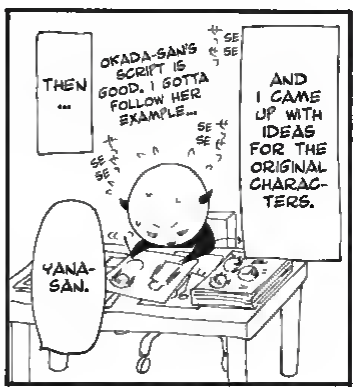

THE ANIME WILL HAVE CIEL WEAR DIFFERENT COSTUMES IN EVERY EPISODE.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO DESIGN THEM?
YAAAY!
WOULD I EVER!!

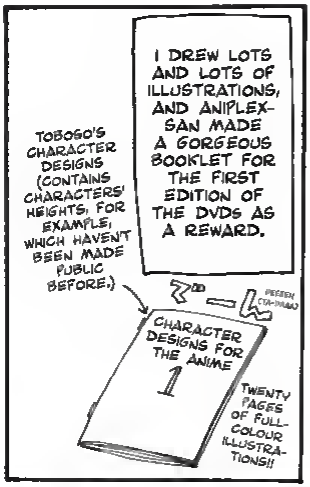

THEN ...
THE PHANTOMHIVE FAMILY, MADAM GRELLE, AND... COLOUR ILLUSTRATIONS WOULD BE BETTER.
SO I DREW ILLUSTRATIONS TO EXPLAIN THE MAIN CHARACTERS.
YANA-SAN.

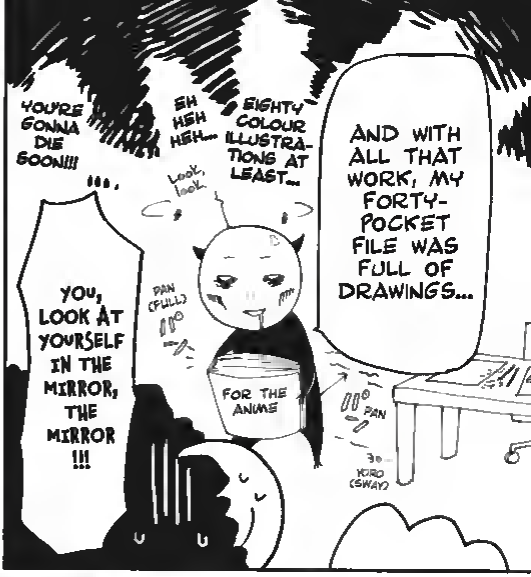

THE ORIGINAL CHARACTERS THAT APPEAR IN THE ANIME.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO DESIGN ...
YES!!!
YAY! SHOULD BE FUN!

THEN ...
A THREE-PIECE SUIT... AH, BUT I NEED TO DRAW MY MANGA TOO...
(SCRITCH)
SE
SE
SO I DESIGNED CIEL'S OUTFITS FOR EVERY EPISODE.
YANA-SAN.

THE DVDS WILL BE OUT.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO DRAW COVER ILLUSTRATIONS FOR THE FIRST EDITION ...
YES!!!!
DVD
WOO! YAY!


THEN ...
OKADA-SAN'S SCRIPT IS GOOD. I GOTTA FOLLOW HER EXAMPLE...
SE
SE
SE
SE
SE
SE
AND I CAME UP WITH IDEAS FOR THE ORIGINAL CHARACTERS.
YANA-SAN.


TOBOSO'S CHARACTER DESIGNS (CONTAINS CHARACTERS' HEIGHTS, FOR EXAMPLE, WHICH HAVEN'T BEEN MADE PUBLIC BEFORE.)
I DREW LOTS AND LOTS OF ILLUSTRATIONS, AND ANIPLEX-SAN MADE A GORGEOUS BOOKLET FOR THE FIRST EDITION OF THE DVDS AS A REWARD.
CHARACTER DESIGNS FOR THE ANIME 1
TWENTY PAGES OF FULL-COLOUR ILLUSTRATIONS!!


YOU'RE GONNA DIE SOON!!!
EH HEH HEH...
EIGHTY COLOUR ILLUSTRATIONS AT LEAST...
AND WITH ALL THAT WORK, MY FORTY-POCKET FILE WAS FULL OF DRAWINGS...
LOOK, LOOK
YOU, LOOK AT YOURSELF IN THE MIRROR, THE MIRROR !!!
PAN (PULL)
FOR THE ANIME
PAN
KURO (SWAY)

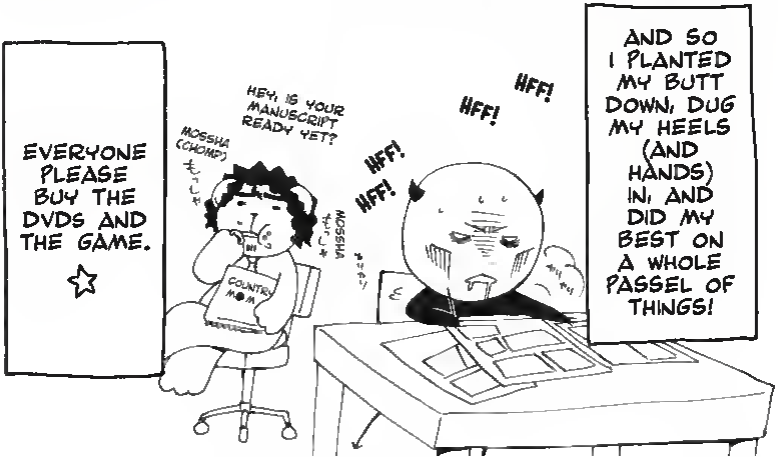
BIG NEWS!!!
YANA-SAN.
HM?
JUST AS I WAS FEELING THAT WAY...

YOU WANT TO DRAW A COLOUR ILLUSTRATION THIS MONTH?
YES!!
SHUBA (RAISE)
A "SECOND" BOOKLET IS APPARENTLY IN THE WORKS.
GOOD THINGS HAPPEN WHEN YOU DO YOUR BEST.

FOR REAL!?
WE (SQUARE ENIX) WILL MAKE A BLACK BUTLER GAME FOR THE DS!!!

NO, NO, I'LL DO IT, I'LL DO IT.
GORON
GORON (ROLL)
@WAAAH!!
IT'S GONNA BE A SQUARE ENIX GAME LIKE THE ONES I'VE ALWAYS ADORED.
...
BUT WITH YOUR SCHEDULE...
N-O, I'LL DO IT, I'LL DO IT.
SCHEDULE
YES!!
AND SO, THEY WANT TO ASK YOU TO SUPERVISE THE DESIGN OF ORIGINAL CHARACTERS FOR THE GAME, AND THE GAME GRAPHICS...
!!!?
DO YOUR BEST TO LOOK OVER THEM BY
REDRAW THEM WHEN NECESSARY!
AND DRAW YOUR MANGA ON TIME.
SCHEDULE
THEN ILLUSTRATIONS, CLOSE-UPS, EVENT CGS...
I CANNOT SAY HOW MANY THERE WERE.
EYEDROPS.
PA (SNAP)
EVIL!
ALL RIGHT.

SFX: KARI (SCRITCH) KARI KARI KARI


EVERYONE PLEASE BUY THE DVDS AND THE GAME.
HEY, IS YOUR MANUSCRIPT READY YET?
MOSSHA (CHOMP)
MOSSHA
COUNTRY MOM
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
AND SO I PLANTED MY BUTT DOWN, DUG MY HEELS (AND HANDS) IN, AND DID MY BEST ON A WHOLE PASSEL OF THINGS!

Translation Notes

Page 6

Abbatline

The real Frederick Abbetline was a chief inspector with the nineteenth-century Metropolitan Police in London and is most famous for being tasked with catching Jack the Ripper, but failing to do so.

Page 9

Phillip, John, Grey

It is hard to say if these persons to whom Queen Victoria is referring have historical counterparts. Phillip may refer to the current Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, who is Queen Victoria's oldest living descendant and great-great grandson. However, Phillip was born in 1921, while Victoria died in 1901. John may refer to her butler, who was introduced in Volume 5, while Grey may refer to General Charles Grey, a relation to many of the men who served as Earl Grey. Grey served in both the British army and in the British House of Commons, and would go on to serve Albert, the Queen Consort, as a personal secretary. After Albert's death, Grey became secretary to Queen Victoria herself.

Page 22

Joker's manner of speech

In the Japanese edition, Joker speaks in the Kyoto dialect (*ben*), which today is commonly associated with geisha (though not strictly used by females). Though this dialect is considered Kansai-*ben*, often thought of as being faster, livelier, and occasionally rough, Kyoto-*ben* is softer and more elegant. Much of this is due to the dialect being used in the imperial court during the Heian era, when modern Kyoto was the capital of Japan.

Page 47

Prosthetic

Prosthetics used during the Victorian era were likely made of wood and/or metal and disguised using clothing. They were also most commonly used by those who had suffered wounds in war, though the wealthy would have had relatively easy access to them as well.

Page 61

Wilde and Goethe

Snake's snakes are named after two of the most famous writers active in Europe around the approximate time of the events in this volume. Among these writers' most famous works are two stories that involve a familiar topic—the selling of souls. The German writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, who died in 1832, is most famous for *Faust*, a story about Mephistopheles, a devil who helps the knowledge-seeking Faust stray from the righteous path, all as part of a wager with God. Faust agrees to the devil's terms to serve him in Hell upon his death, while the devil agrees to serve Faust on Earth however long he lives. The writer Oscar Wilde, on the other hand, was active from 1854 to 1900 and is known for *The Picture of Dorian Grey*, whose titular character states off the cuff that he would sell his soul to stay youthful, while a portrait painted of him would age in his stead. His wish granted, Dorian's portrait grows more horrid with every hedonistic act in which he indulges, until it finally drives him to his death.

Page 154

Dagger's vision

In the original, the "vi" in "vision" is replaced by the character for "beauty," which is read "bi" and pronounced the same as "vi" in Japanese.

Page 173

Editor K's second costume

While the first and third costumes on this page are fairly obvious (the first being Ciel, the third being a DVD package of some kind), K's second costume is of Drossel, from the *Black Butler* anime (season **I**). Drossel, most likely named after the character of Herr Drosselmeyer, the toymaker from *The Nutcracker*, is one of the anime-only characters designed by Yana Toboso.

Page 175

Country M●m

There is a Japanese brand of cookies called Country Ma'am.

Yana Toboso

Author's note

I was simply aiming to draw an entertaining manga. And now an anime, which is the best form of entertainment, has been made from it.

Every day the creators of that other world give me new discoveries and inspiration.

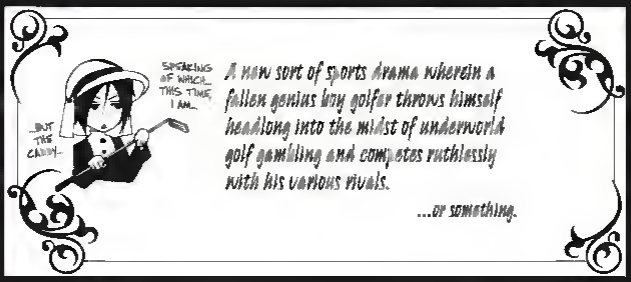
I decided to give the cover a makeover to express my fresh new feelings.

And that's what I am feeling with Volume 6.

Black Golfer

VI

FOOORE!!!
WHAT THE HECK WE'RE ONLY SPECTATORS THIS TIME!?


SPEAKING OF WHICH... THIS TIME I AM...
...BUT THE CADDY...
A new sort of sports drama wherein a fallen genius boy golfer throws himself headlong into the midst of underworld golf gambling and competes ruthlessly with his various rivals.
...or something.

BLACK BUTLER 6

Yana Toboso

Translation: Tomo Kimura • Lettering: Alexis Eckerman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

KUROSHITSUJI Vol. 6 ©2009 Yana Toboso/SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD. First published in Japan in 2009 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD. English translation rights arranged with SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD. and Hachette Book Group through Tuttle-Mori Agency, Inc.

Translation ©2011 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD.

All rights reserved. In accordance with the U.S. Copyright Act of 1976, the scanning, uploading, and electronic sharing of any part of this book without the permission of the publisher is unlawful piracy and theft of the author's intellectual property. If you would like to use material from the book (other than for review purposes), prior written permission must be obtained by contacting the publisher at permissions@hbgusa.com. Thank you for your support of the author's rights.

Yen Press
Hachette Book Group
237 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017

www.HachetteBookGroup.com
www.YenPress.com

Yen Press is an imprint of Hachette Book Group, Inc. The Yen Press name and logo are trademarks of Hachette Book Group, Inc.

The publisher is not responsible for websites (or their content) that are not owned by the publisher.

First Yen Press eBook Edition: April 2014

eBook ISBN: 978-0-316-23703-1

App ISBN: 978-0-316-23810-6